

**MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.  
TUESDAY, 25 JANUARY 2011**

PRESENT: \* denotes attendee

NOMINATED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

Mrs J. Hutchinson	:	Alexandra Residents' Association
Mr K. Ranson	:	Bounds Green and District Residents' Association
Mr D. Heathcote	:	Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association
Ms J. Baker	:	Palace Gates Residents' Association
Ms L. Richardson	:	Palace View Residents' Association
Mr. D. Frith	:	The Rookfield Association
Mr. D. Liebeck	:	Warner Estate Residents' Association
VACANCY	:	Warner Estate Residents' Association

APPOINTED MEMBERS

Councillor D. Beacham	:	Alexandra Ward
Councillor J. Christophides	:	Bounds Green Ward
Councillor S. Erskine	:	Fortis Green Ward
Councillor M. Whyte	:	Hornsey Ward
Councillor J. Jenks	:	Muswell Hill Ward
Councillor P. Gibson	:	Noel Park Ward
Councillor A. Demirci	:	Council Wide appointment
Councillor R. Watson	:	Council Wide appointment

Also in attendance:

Mr Andrew Gill – Interim General Manager – Alexandra Palace  
Mr Mark Evison – Park Manager – Alexandra Palace  
Ms Rebecca Kane – Managing Director, Alexandra Palace Trading Limited  
Mrs Natalie Cole – Clerk to the Committee

Public Gallery:

Councillor Pat Egan – Chair of the Alexandra Park & Palace Consultative Committee

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**MINUTE  
NO.**

**SUBJECT/DECISION**

<b>APSC37.</b>	<b>ELECTION OF CHAIR</b>  Denis Heathcote (Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association) was nominated to act as Chair until the arrival of David Liebeck.  AGREED.
<b>APSC38.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>  Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Monica Whyte, Ken Ranson

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	<p>(Bounds Green &amp; District Residents Association) and Jackie Baker (Palace Gates Residents' Association). Apologies for lateness were received from the Chair (David Liebeck) and Councillor Richard Watson.</p>
<b>APSC39.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Councillor Jim Jenks declared a personal interest as he was a member of Warner Estate Residents' Association (WERA).</p>
<b>APSC40.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <p><u>Statutory Advisory Committee – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Statutory Advisory Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 be agreed as a correct record of proceedings.</p> <p><u>Alexandra Palace and Park Board – 14<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be noted.</p> <p><u>Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010</u></p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the minutes of the Alexandra Palace and Park Consultative Committee held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2010 be noted.</p>
<b>APSC41.</b>	<p><b>PARK ACTIVITIES UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Committee received the Park Activities Update introduced by the Park Manager, Alexandra Palace, Mark Evison, as laid out in the report, pages 35-38 of the agenda pack.</p> <p><u>Page 36 – Paragraph 7 – Car Park Charging</u></p> <p>Councillor Beacham highlighted that a unique selling point of Alexandra Palace was that the venue offered free parking. The Committee noted that if a decision was made to start charging for car parking it would include consultation with Alexandra Palace Trading Company (APTL) and there would be a degree of flexibility to suspend the charges at any point i.e. when large events were being held or for individual car parks.</p> <p>Officers emphasised that data would be collected until early February and the results would be reported to the Advisory Committee at a later stage.</p> <p><u>Page 36 – Paragraph 8 – Little Dinosaurs Planning Inspectorate Case</u></p> <p>David Frith (The Rookfield Association) sought confirmation that the Alexandra Palace and Park Board of Trustees was satisfied to continue the tenancy despite the Tenant's contravention of the lease. The Park Manager explained that the matter had not been officially reported to the Board; however, there would be no contravention once the Tenant had removed the paving slabs and storage units as agreed.</p>

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	<p>Officers noted the suggestion that revenue could be generated by charging commuters for the use of the Palace's car parks and highlighted that many commuters already parked in the Palace and walked to the nearby station.</p> <p><i>Clerk's note: David Liebeck arrived and took over as Chair of the meeting.</i></p> <p>In response to questions about the cost of implementing such a parking scheme it was noted that the car parking operator may pay the capital cost of setting up the scheme.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to note the report.</p>
<b>APSC42.</b>	<p><b>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</b></p> <p>The Committee received the report of the Managing Director, Alexandra Palace Trading Limited, Rebecca Kane and noted that a full schedule of events for the next financial year would be presented at the next Advisory Committee meeting and that 65% of business had already been contracted for 2011/12 which was a strong trading position.</p> <p>The Committee were informed that the re-opening of the Alexandra Palace Ice Rink took place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 and was a successful event.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> to note the report.</p>
<b>APSC43.</b>	<p><b>GOVERNANCE &amp; FUTURE VISION</b></p> <p>The Committee received the Governance and Future Vision Update presented by the Interim General Manager, Alexandra Palace, Andrew Gill who drew attention to page 56 of the report which provided timescales for further work to be conducted.</p> <p>Officers noted Ms Hutchinson's (Alexandra Resident's Association) suggestion that the term "Ally Pally" not be used in the example job description for Independent Advisor to the Board.</p> <p>In response to concerns raised about past problems where Trustee members of the Board changed frequently, the Committee noted that the term of office was for only one year due to the Council's procedure of annually agreeing memberships for all committees. This did not mean that membership automatically changed each year.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the report be noted.</p>
<b>APSC44.</b>	<p><b>FEEDBACK FROM THE WORKING GROUP</b></p> <p>The Committee received the report of the Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committees Working Groups on the possibility of having a joint committee and whether it would be more effective than the current two individual committees which often received and considered exactly the same information.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Consultative Committee Working Group for the report</p>

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prepared in advance of the joint working groups meeting.

The Committee discussed the recommendations of the report which included adopting Model 1, a joint Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee, on a trial basis and reviewing the possibility of adopting Model 2, a reconstituted single Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee, in light of the experience of Model 1.

The Committee noted that the general consensus of both working groups was that joint meetings needed to be conducted within reasonable timescales. The assumption would be that documents sent as part of the agenda pack had been read by all members and the length of time spent on certain items would be limited.

Members asked for clarity on how the joint meeting in Model 1 would be run. It was noted that there would be a general meeting including both the Advisory and Consultative Committees where reports would be received and discussed and comments noted. The meeting would then move into a Statutory Advisory Committee meeting where its recommendations to the Board would be agreed; Consultative Committee members could remain in the meeting but would leave the table.

The Committee was reminded that the Board was required to consult with the Advisory Committee and consider its recommendations, whereas there was no statutory duty for the Board to do the same with the Consultative Committee.

It was noted that operational matters would need to be discussed after the first trial joint meeting. The Consultative Committee would consider the report at its meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February and the Board would consider it on 15<sup>th</sup> February and a report to Full Council would follow.

Some members expressed concern about how a joint committee would work and that the number of potential members on the joint committee might make it unmanageable. It was anticipated that the residents' associations with a member on each committee would have to decide if one or both of those members would attend the joint meeting(s).

Councillor Watson suggested that Model 2 be adopted as soon as possible and this was supported by Councillor Demirci. The Chair reminded the Committee that it would be more appropriate to run a trial meeting to see if a joint meeting was workable. For example, certain members of the Consultative Committee had commercial interests in Alexandra Palace and Park; the membership of the Advisory Committee was restricted and was to provide direction and guidance to the Board on behalf of local residents and Councillors, who were directly affected by events in the Palace and Park.

It was noted that the Constitution of the Consultative Committee could be amended by the Council if any changes were required. Should there be a requirement to change the remit of the Statutory Advisory Committee a change of the Alexandra Park and Palace Act, 1985, would be required. However, it was mooted that the agreement of (or lack of any objection from) the Charity Commission was all that would be required to adopt a scheme that did not dilute the Advisory Committee's remit.

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Other comments from members of the Advisory Committee were to the effect that a decision on Model 2 should be deferred pending legal and Charity Commission advice.

**RESOLVED**

- i. That Model 1, a Joint Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee, be supported and that two trial meetings take place, the first one taking place on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2011, the next scheduled meeting.
- ii. That Model 2 be supported in principle and that Officers be asked to investigate the practicalities of having a single Statutory Advisory and Consultative Committee and seek legal and Charity Commission advice (after and subject to approval from the Consultative Committee meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011) before reporting back to the Advisory Committee

**APSC45. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

i. External Fabric Condition Update

The Committee received the External Fabric Condition Update (tabled) presented by Mark Neale, Facilities Manager, Alexandra Palace, as set out in the report.

The Committee noted that the priority works in the asset management plan on Page 5 of the report would go towards reducing the deterioration of the building and not improvements.

Some committee members expressed concerns that the 10-year asset management plan was not the best use of money and that it would be better to use the total amounts for each area at once rather than over a 10 year period during which the Palace building would deteriorate further. The Interim General Manager advised that the asset management plan was a means of substantiating the bid for capital funds; it was not a funded asset management plan as the Trust did not have the capital funds to undertake the works therein.

Members were reminded of the scale of the investment required to arrest the deterioration of the Palace building and that the Palace relied on Council funding and the bids for capital funding had to be realistic. The Alexandra Palace and Park Regeneration Working Group had been established to consider ways in which to increase support and funding for improvements to the Palace.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

ii. UNESCO

The Committee received the proposal to seek UNESCO world heritage site status for the south east wing of Alexandra Palace (pages 57 – 62 of the agenda pack), written and presented by Clive Carter – local resident.

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	<p>Committee Members generally expressed support for the proposal in principle but concerns were raised about the amount of officer time that would be required and the cost of this time, given the financial austerity measures introduced by the Council due to the reduction in its budget.</p> <p>In response to concerns Mr Carter explained that the proposal would take a long time, taking a number of years, and that some of the work would necessarily be taken on by officers and the Local Authority. Sponsors could be approached but the starting point would be to obtain the agreement and commitment of the Board and the Local Authority.</p> <p>In response to a question Mr Cater confirmed that an application for USESCO Heritage Site recognition could only be made if the restoration works on the Palace were completed.</p> <p>In response to a question about point 12 (Page 61), the General Manager confirmed that in March 2010 Trustees abandoned their former strategy of awarding a long term lease to a private developer. New governance arrangements and strategies were in the course of being adopted by the Palace.</p> <p>The Committee noted that Bromley Council had spent circa 20 years on its bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site recognition for the home of Charles Darwin - Down House, which had been deferred twice by the committee.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> that Sue Cole, English Heritage, be invited to the next meeting of the Statutory Advisory Committee to provide information on what a bid for USESCO Word Heritage Site recognition would entail.</p>
<b>APSC46.</b>	<b>DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b>  The next meeting would be held on Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2011.  The meeting ended at 21:05 hrs

David Liebeck

Chair

Signed by the Chair .....

Date .....