

# MINUTES OF MEETING JOINT MEETING OF THE ALEXANDRA PARK & PALACE STATUTORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE ALEXANDRA PALACE AND PARK CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

HELD ON Tuesday, 20th October, 2015, 7.30 - 9.36 pm

*Italics denote absence*

## **Advisory Committee Nominate Members of:**

Alexandra Residents' Association (Mrs Jane Hutchinson), *Bounds Green and District Residents' Association (Mr Ken Ranson)*, *Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association (Mr Duncan Neill)*, Palace Gates Residents' Association (Mr Kevin Stanfield), Palace View Residents' Association (Ms Elizabeth Richardson), The Rookfield Association (Mr. David Frith), Three Avenues Residents' Association (Mr Jason Beazley), Warner Estate Residents' Association (Adrian Thomas)

## **Advisory Committee Appointed Members:**

Councillor James Patterson (Alexandra Ward), *Councillor Clare Bull (Bounds Green Ward)*, Councillor Viv Ross (Fortis Green Ward), Councillor Adam Jogee (Hornsey Ward, Chair), Councillor Stephen Mann (Noel Park Ward), *Councillor Mark Blake (Muswell Hill Ward)*, Councillor Eddie Griffith (Council Wide Appointment), *Councillor Charles Wright (Council Wide Appointment)*

## **Consultative Committee Nominated Members:**

Alexandra Palace Allotments Association (Ms Jenny Bourne-Taylor), Alexandra Palace Organ Appeal (Mr Hugh Macpherson), *Alexandra Palace Television Group (Mr John Thompson)*, Alexandra Residents' Association (Mr Dermot Barnes), Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area Advisory Committee (Mr Colin Marr), *Bounds Green and District Residents' Association (Mr Ken Ranson)*, Friends of Alexandra Park (Mr Gordon Hutchinson, Chair), Friends of the Alexandra Palace Theatre (Mr Nigel Willmott), *Heartlands High School (vacancy)*, Hornsey Historical Society (Ms Rachael Macdonald), *Muswell Hill and Fortis Green Association (Mr Chris Roche)*, Muswell Hill Metro Group (Mr John Boshier), Palace View Residents' Association (Ms Val Paley), St Mary's CE Primary School (Ms Frances Hargrove), *Warner Estate Residents' Association (Prof. Richard Hudson)*

## **Appointed Members (APP Board) :**

Councillor Patrick Berryman, Councillor *Joanna Christophides (Chair)*, *Councillor Tim Gallagher (Vice-Chair)*, *Councillor Liz McShane*, Councillor Anne Stennett, Councillor Bob Hare

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Isobel Aptaker (Education Officer, Alexandra Palace), Emma Dagnes (Managing Director, Alexandra Palace), Mark Evison (Alexandra Park Manager), Louise Stewart (Chief Executive, Alexandra Park and Palace) and Natalie Layton (Clerk).

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming Louise Stewart, Chief Executive, Alexandra Park and Palace).

### **35. FILMING AT MEETINGS**

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

### **36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

NOTED apologies for absence from Cllr Bull, Cllr Christophides, Caroline Hayter (who had resigned from the committee), Cllr Gallagher, Professor Hudson, Cllr McShane and Cllr Wright.

### **37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Hare declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6, Chief Executive's report, as he was Chair of the Alexandra Palace Allotments Association.

### **38. MEMBERSHIP**

a. NOTED the following changes to the membership of the Advisory Committee:

i. Noel Park Ward Councillor

NOTED the appointment of Councillor Stephen Mann (Noel Park Ward), with effect from 8 October 2015, as Noel Park Ward appointed member.

ii. The Three Avenues Residents' Association (TARA)

NOTED the appointment of Jason Beazley (TARA Chair) and Sue Beckett (Deputy) as nominated members, with effect from 5 October 2015, from TARA.

iii. Warner Estate Residents' Association (WERA)

NOTED the resignation of David Liebeck and the appointment of Mr James Jenks and Mr Adrian Thomas (deputy) as WERA representatives.

The Chair introduced and welcomed the new Advisory Committee members.

b. NOTED that the membership of Vitrine Ltd (The Lakeside Cafe) on the Consultative Committee had not been renewed as the required annual membership document had not been received.

c. Alexandra Residents' Association (ARA)

NOTED the resignation of Caroline Hayter and the appointment of Mr Dermot Barnes as ARA representative on the Consultative Committee, who was welcomed by the Chair.

### 39. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

a. Joint Advisory and Consultative Committee – 9 June 2015

RECEIVED the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Advisory and Consultative Committee held on 9 June 2015 (pages 1-7 of the agenda pack), which were confirmed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.

NOTED the following matters arising:

i. Update report of the Interim Chief Executive (Minute No. 7.c)

With reference to discussions on the governance of the Joint Advisory and Consultative Committee, Colin Marr reported that he had submitted a draft terms of reference for a joint committee to the Palace's senior officers, which would rationalise the complexity of this committee. Louise Stewart, Chief Executive - Alexandra Palace, informed the Committee that she would consider the document and Colin Marr's request that it be reviewed, perhaps by Haringey officers, before any further circulation.

**ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

ii. Archiving of artefacts (Minute No. 8e)

In response to concerns raised by David Frith, Emma Dagnes, Managing Director - Alexandra Palace, recognised the staffing constraints at Bruce Castle. The Palace was considering options to alleviate the staffing pressures and had appointed Kirsten Forrest, from the British Museum to work with Bruce Castle to move the archiving project forward.

AGREED that more detail of the archiving activity be brought to the next committee meeting.

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

b) Consultative Committee – 9 June 2015

RECEIVED the minutes of the Consultative Committee held on 9 June 2015 (pages 9-11 of the agenda pack).

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Consultative Committee held on 9 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.

c) Advisory Committee – 9 June 2015

NOTED the minutes of the Advisory Committee held on 9 June 2015 (pages 13-16 of the agenda pack).

d) Board

RECEIVED the draft minutes of the meeting of the Alexandra Palace and Park Board held on 23 June 2015 and 15 July 2015 (pages 17-31 of the agenda pack).

The following matters arose from discussion of the minutes:

i. 23 June 2015 – Artistic Policy (Minute No.8d)

NOTED that an update on the production of an artistic policy for the theatre was requested. It was explained that discussions were still taking place and a consultant would be working with the Palace to develop a policy which would be presented to the committees early in 2016.

ii. 15 July 2015

NOTED in response to questioning that the conversations with the Campsbourne Centre management team were on going. regarding the lease for the playgroup building were on going.

Colin Marr noted that concerns about the graffiti wall had been discussed at the meeting but were not minutes.

#### 40. **CHIEF EXECUTIVE REPORT**

RECEIVED the report of Louise Stewart, Chief Executive, Alexandra Palace and Park (pages 31-87 of the agenda pack).

The following matters arose from discussion of the report:

a. Commercial Events

i. July – September

REPORTED that

- Prime Impact was the organisation that ran the Mind, Body and Soul exhibition;
- Braemar Avenues and neighbouring roads had been disturbed by the noise of the PA during this year's Red Bull event. This had not occurred during previous events, and Jason Beazley requested that the speakers be repositioned in the future.

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

ii. Events Licence

REPORTED that residents of Bedford Road had logged a complaint as they were disturbed after live music events. The Palace had evaluated the egress after the Wombats concert and, as a result, had put a number of additional measures in place for security, traffic management, roadside cleaning and signage in place.

Emma Dagnes was hoping to meet with Bedford Road residents and the lead officer for licensing at LB Haringey in order to talk through issues before moving forward with further mitigation.

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

iii. Fireworks (paragraph 5.4 of the report)

NOTED that

- members expressed concern that discussions at the previous meeting about opening an entrance at south east corner of park for the fireworks event had not been taken forward. Emma Dagnes offered to discuss the matter with the safety advisory group, which included the emergency services. Reasons for not opening this entrance during the fireworks event would be reported back to the committee. It was also suggested that signage be installed at the south east corner to direct visitors to the nearest entrance, i.e. Redston Field;

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

- Cllr Jogee confirmed that Redston Field Gate would be open for ticket holders and Northview Exit will be open for exit only but there would be no entrance at Newland Road;
- The bonfire would be held on the Newlands Field;
- Barriers erected for a previous firework event had blocked the rear exit from 110 Dukes Avenue and this would be resolved.

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

b. Marketing

REPORTED that new 'what's on' lamppost banners were demonstrated on page 45 and in response to a question it was reported that these would replace current banners but advertising consent would also be sought for additional banners.

c. The Bar and Kitchen (paragraph 5.6)

NOTED that on a show of hands the committee clearly agreed that the name 'The Phoenix' was preferred to 'Bar and Kitchen'. Louise Stewart suggested 'The Phoenix Bar and Kitchen' as an option to let visitors know that it was a pub.

d. Fundraising

NOTED the comments of some committee members that Alexandra Palace memorabilia should be available to purchase at other outlets, including online, and not only at events.

Emma Dagnes explained that the retail aspect of the fundraising campaign was very limited with low numbers of tea towels and prints sold at exhibitions. Future options for merchandise would be discussed with the Chief Executive. There was a merchandise strategy for concerts linked to the artists but retailing Palace memorabilia could be resource intensive at a time when the Palace's

fundraising manager was focussing on funding applications, which potentially brought in more money.

Other sponsorship opportunities were discussed and the committee noted that a future report would be presented to the Trustees outlining the possibilities for public contribution including the sponsorship of theatre seats.

A clearer picture of the fundraising programme would be provided at the next meeting.

**ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

e. Facilities

NOTED that the Chair felt the report was very useful in illustrating the substantial amount of work which was being undertaken to bring the Palace services up to modern standards.

Tim James was the Head of Facilities for Alexandra Palace.

f. Fabric Maintenance plan

Great hall – clean fabric linings and walkways

NOTED that

- Hugh Macpherson requested the Organ Society be consulted about the cleaning of the fabric linings and walkways as falling dirt could affect the organ;

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

- the proposal for the North West Service Wall, was to install a building to support the wall, which could be used for storage as a long term solution to secure its structure. There was no bracing on the other side of the wall and falling masonry had damaged parked vehicles in the past. The wall was, however, regularly surveyed;
- in response to a question: the former railway bridge, crossing Dukes Avenue was the property of Network Rail, who had conducted some maintenance work recently. The Chair would raise with the Park Manager that the area should be re-examined for further maintenance.

**ACTION: CHAIR**

g. Restoration Project

REPORTED that the tender returns for the enabling works contract were due the following week and Trustees had been invited to a workshop on the procurement contract on 11 November. A decision to appoint a contractor would be taken on 26 November. Once appointed the contractor would work with the Palace to review the timelines for the contract, which would be reported on at the next meeting.

NOTED, in response to a questions, that:

- as part of the tender contractors had to provide a strategy for how they would keep the ice rink open during works;
- a curator had been appointed on a part-time basis. The Palace and Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) were considering a possible future merge of the archivist and digital archivist roles to ensure consistency and delivery. A more detailed structure chart would be provided at the next meeting such as staff on the design team, the consultant, and the Palace's own appointed personnel who were part funded through the HLF;
- the Friends of the Theatre would be updated on the conditioning survey, which was not yet complete;
- the extensive repairs to the Londesborough room referred to in the report were external works;
- Emma Dagnes would check to confirm whether the Palace had yet obtained listed consent for the south elevation brick and mortar repairs to Traitors Gate.

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

- the Chair expressed disappointment that the report on the restoration project did not contain information pertaining to the departure of the interim director of regeneration project, details of the staff engaged in the project, or the overall project programme.

AGREED to request a further report including the organisation structure, details of management and whether the project timescales were being met.

**ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

h. Parks

i. Awards Recognition

NOTED that Mark Evison, Park Manager, acknowledged the hard work of grounds team and the work of the Friends of Alexandra Park who had contributed to achieving those awards year after year.

ii. Park Vision

NOTED that Mark Evison thanked all who had been involved in the vision consultation and reported that phase 1 of the habitat report had been received on Friday. The report proposed a review of the trees on site. A new masterplan would be developed linking to the borough's planning and health strategies.

The following matters arose:

A. Views

NOTED that

- Colin Marr commended the plan and echoed concerns raised during the consultation about protecting the views from the Palace, which he felt had not been reflected in the nine areas to be reviewed at appendix c. Mr Marr suggested adding

some wording to the following effect: “retention and enhancement of views particularly within and out of the park”;

- Mark Evison reminded the committee that protecting the view, specifically St Pauls Cathedral, had been included in the vision;
- a number of members raised concern about the views, including the effect of development of high buildings outside of the park, and the potential loss of the countryside characteristic of the park through overdevelopment;
- the Chair reported that the Friends of Alexandra Park were developing further input for the vision. This would focus on open space heritage of the park and, that the park provided an opportunity for entertainment. The statement would emphasise the importance of the entertainment aspect not affecting the first three aspects.

## B. Trees

NOTED that a discussion about trees took place including:

- that consideration be given to the impact of tree growth on those who lived on the periphery of the park where light and privacy might be affected;
- in response to issues raised Mark Evison reported that some trees had been removed on safety grounds but would be replanted after the review;
- the dead tree near the garden centre had been disrupted by development around it and had been removed. There was still a dead oak tree on the other side of the site near the deer enclosure which would remain;
- the Allotments Association would not be formally consulted as part of the trees review but was welcome to submit any comments.

## C. Drainage

NOTED, in response to questions, that

- plans to improve the drainage on the lower road, experimental works had been conducted and had not resolved the issue;
- other repairs such as blockages and sewage works took priority;
- a survey was being undertaken for a similar issue at Holland Park (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea) and it was hoped that Alexandra Palace could learn some lessons from this;
- Frances Hargrove reported that Haringey Council was conducting some sustainable drainage system road works in the area, which might provide useful information.



i. Heartlands High School – use of upper football field

NOTED that

- i. the survey of the upper football field site (which Heartlands School had requested to use as a sports field) had recommended a survey for drainage improvements and other repairs which were being considered. Alexandra Park football club was being consulted about the proposals;
- ii. in response to questions:
  - the school proposed long term use of the field, which was situated between the boating lake and the football club;
  - the field would still be available for public use;
  - any agreement was still in the early stages of discussion but the school had some capital funds for the work detailed in the survey.

j. Graffiti Wall

NOTED that a full discussion on the issue of the graffiti wall took place, including the following comments:

- i. to date the Trust had received one complaint concerning the drift of paint spray from the graffiti wall;
- ii. the options were:
  - to move the pit or wall;
  - to install advisory signage, which the Palace had done in a number of different languages but the signage had been spray-painted over. Security staff were encouraged to talk to artists directly but resources would not enable conversations with every artist;Trustees would consider these options in November;
- iii. Emma Dagnes recognised that the issue had been first raised in April 2015 and that the matter required a cautious approach;
- iv. the comments of Colin Marr including:
  - that people avoided using the pit when graffiti artists were using the wall;
  - he felt there had been ineffective communication with artists as many had said they had not been asked to avoid using spray while the sandpit was in use;
  - building a new adventure playground would be preferred to moving the graffiti wall;
- v. the following comments from committee members:
  - the cost of moving the wall was estimated at £10k and the cost of moving the sandpit was around £12k but would not necessarily solve the problem;
  - artists should be asked where they would like to see the wall moved to;
  - a member expressed that they felt graffiti was a spontaneous act, and the sand pit could be in use all day which would limit creativity;
  - a log should be maintained of which artists had been spoken to and reported to the joint committee;

- moving fixtures to another area would not be a good use of funds but if artists co-operated and it was policed and reported effectively it could save thousands being spent;
- vi. Emma Dagnes expressed some concern that reports that artists had reacted favourably to consultative committee member's requests did not reflect the experiences of the security staff who had spoken to artists. Security staff would be asked to continue to approach the artists.

**ACTION: MANAGING DIRECTOR**

k. Learning and Community

RECEIVED a verbal update from Isobel Aptaker, Learning Officer - Alexandra Palace, including that

- a 2016 Calendar, containing photos of the Palace taken by Accum18 (a social enterprise working with residents of the Tottenham YMCA) was being produced;
- the objects from the Palace's centenary exhibition had been handed back to collectors and consideration was being given to how the project could be taken further forward;
- the last performance of the internee concert had taken place before construction started and good feedback had been received;
- the profits from the Accum18 YMCA project would be split between the young people and the Palace;
- in response to questioning, leaflets of the Palace's learning and community projects were sent to schools and headteachers and followed up;
- Nigel Willmott thanked Ms Aptaker for an amazing year;
- Councillor Hare and Hugh Macpherson had attended the orchestra concert and expressed that they had been very impressed.

Emma Dagnes would inform committee members where the 2016 Calendar would be available for purchase.

**ACTION: LEARNING OFFICER**

*Clerk's note: The order in which the items contained in the report were considered was varied to enable Parks and Learning and Community to be considered at the start of the meeting. Therefore Isobel Aptaker and Mark Evison left the meeting at 20:36hrs*

l. Miscellaneous

NOTED, further to questions, that:

- there was a borough wide dog control limiting dog walkers to a maximum of 6 dogs at a time;
- it was hoped that previous studies on car parking charging would be taken forward;
- Mark Evison agreed to investigate:
  - the cost of installing signs which flashed as speeding vehicles approached;
  - the possibility of removing the parking bays on Alexandra Palace Way.

**ACTION: PARK MANAGER**

**41. NON-VOTING BOARD MEMBERS FEEDBACK**

NOTED the update from Nigel Willmott including, that

- the Board had been informed at its meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June that the Palace’s debt to the London Borough of Haringey had been converted to a grant which alleviated some of the financial pressure on the Palace, and;
- at its meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July – mechanical and engineering work would be brought back in-house and that falcons had been borrowed some time ago in order to clear some of the pigeons in the Park.

**42. ITEMS RAISED BY INTERESTED GROUPS**

None.

**43. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OR URGENT BUSINESS**

a. Bus Stops and signage

NOTED that Adrian Thomas requested consideration be given to changing the names of the bus stops around the Park. There were 6 bus stops which had the name Alexandra Palace or Alexandra Park and WERA residents felt that this was causing confusion with people getting off at the wrong stops. Committee members felt that discussions with Transport for London was required and the Trust should consider how directions from e.g. Finsbury Park Station, Alexandra Palace Station and Muswell Hill could be improved.

**ACTION: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

b. Restoration of Houses of Parliament

NOTED the suggestion by Colin Marr that the Palace should consider applying for its space to be used for the decanting of parliament during the parliament buildings restoration. Mr Marr would formally propose this to the Board at its next meeting.

**ACTION: COLIN MARR**

**44. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

NOTED that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 February 2016.

An apology for absence from this meeting was received from Hugh Macpherson as an organ concert was scheduled for the same night.

CHAIR: Gordon Hutchinson

Signed by Chair .....

Date .....