

QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENT and OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**
held on Wednesday 16th July 2014 at 7pm in Office 1, Beethoven Centre, Third
Avenue, Queen's Park, London W10 4JL.

PRESENT Cllrs Katie Cowan, Ryan Dalton, Joe Fernandes, Emma Morgan,
Eartha Pond, Susanna Rustin and Emma Sweeney

In attendance: Linda Butcher, Director
2 members of the public (Chrissie Chambers and Raymond
Lancashire)

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

E&OS.063 **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Katie Cowan Chairman of the Environment
and Open Spaces Committee for the 2014/15 year.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

E&OS.064 **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Emma Morgan Vice Chairman of the
Environment and Open Spaces Committee for the 2014/15 year.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – there were no apologies

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any dis-closable pecuniary
interests and interest other than pecuniary interests, as defined under
Queen's Park Community Council's Code of Conduct and the Localism
Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

Cllr Katie Cowan declared a Personal Interest as Chairman of the
Friends of Queen's Park Gardens.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To receive any questions, or brief representations, from members of
the public in accordance with Standing Order No. 3 e, f, g and h.

Chrissie Chambers spoke about the issues with dogs in the Queen's
Park Gardens and asked if the Council could put up signage as people
are taking dogs onto the hill off the lead. It was suggested that Klaudia
should speak to the Warden because he was in attendance but took no
action. The Council needs to open up discussions with the Park
Warden and others as there appears to be only one dog warden for the
whole of the Westminster area. Chrissie was thanked for all the work
she does in the area and as this is such a serious issue it was
AGREED this matter would be placed on a future Council meeting
agenda.

Chrissie left the meeting at 7.30pm

REPORTS

Queen's Park Gardens

Launch of the play area

Cllr Rustin explained there had been three accidents which involved two children receiving three broken wrists as a result of falling from the monkey bars. Therefore, it had been decided to remove these for the time-being. Also one adult with a child had been injured. It was suggested that this was a flawed piece of equipment and that it could be lowered by one foot, however, it would not be put back and instead a ladder will be installed later. It was hoped to officially launch the area early September.

Trial opening hours of the Wildlife area in the Park

The Committee were given sight of the two Management Plans for the area covering the period 2010-2015. Although the wildlife area is now flowering it is now locked. It is hoped an agreement can be reached for it to be unlocked as this has not been considered possible in the past. The current arrangement is that any local individual or organisation can ring Continental Management to arrange for the Wildlife Area to be opened at a specific time. A previous request that the key be held in a central location in the area have been denied on the grounds that one central key is used across three parks in the local area. This request was made prior to the SPCC's existence.

Some Members considered whether it is worth keeping the wildlife area if an improved arrangement for access cannot be arranged.

There was then a general discussion about the possibility of having the area opened and for the warden to stay for a time, e.g. regular openings after school or Saturdays. Perhaps QPCC could pay for warden time.

A report giving the background of the Friends of Queen's Park Gardens and the work they have been doing was submitted for information purposes.

8pm Cllr Susanna Rustin left the meeting.

Schools Access arrangements

E&OS.065 RESOLVED to ask the Parks Department if we could have a regular opening slot of at least four hours per week on a week-end. The Council would actively seek out schools to use the area to make children more knowledgeable and also discuss whether the Community Council can hold a key.

E&OS.066 **RESOLVED** that there is no problem with removing the gate to the rose garden as a first step but that there should be further consultation on any other changes in the park.

The Friends of Queen's Park Gardens – the way forward

E&OS.067 **RESOLVED** that the Friends of Queen's Park Gardens would continue to work with Queen's Park Community Council.

ALLOTMENTS

Harrington Court Allotments - To consider whether or not QPCC would wish to take on the management of these allotments

It was AGREED to seek further information before making a decision on this matter.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm