

Council
17.01.2018
080-17/18 – 090-17/18



QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at the Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue

London W10 4JL on **Wednesday 17 January 2018** commencing at 18:00.

Present: Councillors Susanna Rustin (Chair), Leslie Barson, Katie Cowan, Ryan Dalton, Gill Fitzhugh, Nasima Khanom, Eartha Pond, Angela Singhate, and Emma Sweeney.

Also present: Kevin Harris, Chief Officer; and two members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 18:08.

080-17/18 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J. Hogben and E. Morgan.

081-17/18 Declarations of interest – there were no declarations of interest.

082-17/18 The minutes of the Council Meeting held 15 November 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

083-17/18 Public Session. A plea for support was made on behalf of Friends of Queen's Park Gardens. A resident sought advice as a freeholder having building issues with a neighbouring housing association property. Cllr Fitzhugh undertook to look into the issues.

084-17/18 Staff terms of employment

The Chief Officer left the room at 18:17 and the public gallery was cleared. The Chief Officer and members of the public returned at 18:25.

The recommendations of the HR Committee, that from April 2018 the Chief Officer be employed for three days per week and the Community Development Officer be granted an additional increment, were **approved**.

085-17/18 Councillors' allowances – the Chief Officer was asked to research the practicalities of implementing the scheme and report to the next meeting of council.

086-17/18 Working Groups

Neighbourhood Plan - The Basic Conditions statement and Consultation report are in draft form and in circulation. The Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment are being reviewed by an external consultant. Council received an update on the circumstances

surrounding the ownership and future of Queen's Park Hall. Comments were invited on the possible uses of the ground floor of the hall. Councillor Fitzhugh advised that the policy in the Neighbourhood Plan regarding Canal Terrace has changed to accept that ground floor use can be residential. Two other project themes have been added to the Neighbourhood Plan, concerning (i) air quality and (ii) a second bridge over the canal.

Planning applications - attention was drawn to an application to install electrical charge points and a feeder pillar on Sixth Avenue. The recommendations of the Working Group were **approved**.

Grants – with the deadline for the current round imminent, four applications have been received with two more anticipated.

The Voice – all councillors were invited to provide short quotes on their experience as councillors, for the next issue, which will contain a standard menu of contents as well as election information.

Events – the Community Development Officer's report on the Winter Fair was received.

Environment and Open Spaces – a progress update on the HCGA gardening contract was received, including a successful stall at the Winter Fair, site-clearing sessions and regular gardening sessions. Notices will be put up to explain activity developing the Community Orchard. An initiative is underway to encourage people to sponsor trees in the orchard.

Councillor Eartha Pond entered the meeting at 18:47.

Tree-planting will begin in March. The plan is for the Community Orchard to be ready in May, with a view to it being opened by the new council. Initial plans for the hut have been received from Willmott and Dixon.

Forward planning – the group's recent meeting had focussed on the Chief Officer's work plan and on how staff time would be used in the build up to the elections. The Chairman and Chief Officer were due to meet with the leader of Westminster City Council, partly with the intention of improving communication.

087-17/18 Mini-grants fund – a proposal to establish a small fund for 'mini-grants' was discussed.

Councillor Ryan Dalton left the room at 18:56 and returned to the room at 18:57.

The proposal was **approved** and it was **agreed** that applicants would be invited to attend the next meeting of council following the date of receipt of application, otherwise proposals could be circulated with the papers, with queries being explored and clarified by the Community Development Officer. A proposal that officers should have delegated powers to spend the money directly was not taken forward.

088-17/18 Programme for 2018 elections – the Chief Officer reported on plans leading up to the 2018 elections. With regard to encouraging candidates, it was noted that the emphasis at this stage should be on *standing* for council, not on campaigning for election.

089-17/18 2018-2019 budget – the Chief Officer introduced the proposed budget which was **approved**.

Councillor Ryan Dalton left the room at 19:26 and returned to the room at 19:27.

090-17/18 Financial reporting – it was **agreed** to re-introduce regular financial reporting direct to council meetings, as a standing agenda item.

The meeting closed at 19:30.