



QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at the Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue
London W10 4JL on **Wednesday 21 February 2018** commencing at 18:00.

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

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

The meeting commenced at 18:04.

091-17/18 Apologies for absence – apologies for absence were received from Councillors Philip Andokou and Emma Morgan.

092-17/18 Declarations of interest – Councillor Emma Sweeney declared an interest in item 99 having been an applicant to the Community Grants scheme on behalf of PDT.

093-17/18 The minutes of the Council Meeting held 17 January 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

094-17/18 Public session – Council was congratulated on the progress reflected in the minutes of the last meeting. A comment was passed on the state of Ilbert Street and the need to monitor cleaning. A question was asked regarding the forthcoming period of 'purdah': it was **agreed** that the Chief Officer would prepare a briefing to council.

095-17/18 Allowances – Questions were raised about how the scheme would affect people's benefits. It was argued that this could influence the willingness of people on benefits to stand for council. Councillors asked for clarity as to how the system works. It would be reassuring for people thinking of standing as councillors to know that allowances were paid.

Councillor Katie Cowan entered the meeting at 18:27

Councillors sought another way of ensuring that members who needed the allowance would be reimbursed. The Chief Officer was asked to prepare an explanatory note regarding the impact on benefits. It was **agreed** that the scheme be prepared for councillors currently in office to claim; and that the allowance should be increased to £250 for the new council elected in May.

096-17/18 Hammersmith Community Garden Association – HCGA’s current contract runs until March 2018. The enhanced scheme with HCGA is similar to that run in other boroughs but is unusual in Westminster. Cathy Maund explained that HCGA had inherited ‘Queen’s Park in Bloom’ and changed it slightly last year to Front Gardens Competition, which was successful. More community gardening sessions are planned. Some sponsorship has been attracted for the community orchard and it will have 6-8 trees. All will be fruit or nut trees: four have already been sponsored. Planting begins on 24 March with an event proposed for the autumn when the first fruit should be visible. Some damage had been reported to the fencing in the corner of the park: Parks Department have approved funding for new railings. Renewal of the HCGA contract for 12 months, for the same amount, was **agreed**.

097-17/18 PDT jobs project – Councillor Rustin provided an update on the employment support project. Funded by PDT until spring 2019, the jobs adviser’s role is helping people to prepare for employment, it is not a job brokering scheme. It was **agreed** to invite the employment adviser to a future council meeting to introduce the project to new councillors.

098-17/18 Programme for 2018 elections – the Chief Officer provided an update on the programme leading up to the 2018 elections. Weekly drop-in sessions are being run for people interested in standing as councillors. A community day was being organised for 10 March and a range of publicity had been prepared.

099-17/18 Working groups

Grants

Councillor Sweeney left the meeting at 18:57.

Councillor Singhate reported on the latest round of applications to the Community Grants Fund, noting that the quality of the applications was disappointing. Only two projects were recommended by the panel. A proposal from PDT was rejected on grounds of the size of the organisation. The panel would have preferred the application to have come from the group on whose behalf it was made (West London Birth Companions) but it was noted that PDT was applying to run the project. There is no rule prohibiting an organisation to be funded more than once. Another organisation had submitted after the closing date. It was agreed that there was a need to review and clarify the scheme criteria. The Community Grants budget underspend will be retained and could include spending on software for running the scheme. The Community Development Officer was delegated to make a decision on the grant to be made to Munro Health if the panel’s conditions were met. Although two councillors expressed disappointment that the PDT application had been turned down, it was **agreed** that on these terms the panel’s recommendations were accepted.

Councillor Sweeney returned to the meeting at 19:14.

Environment and Open Spaces – A meeting had been held with Willmott Dixon regarding the plans and costing for the park hut, and the plans were being revised. Some contribution in kind might be forthcoming. A session had been held with an RSPB representative in Queens Park Gardens.

Planning Applications

Two applications had been submitted to Westminster City Council to extend over the pub garden at the Flora and to build 9-10 flats on the upper floors. The planners had not been able to respond within the deadline, so both cases have gone to appeal.

The recommendations of the working group were accepted.

Neighbourhood Planning

A member of the public had come to council at the previous meeting reporting problems with neighbours. Councillor Fitzhugh had liaised with Ward Councillor P. Dimoldenberg and the issue has been resolved.

Chamberlayne Road residents have been agitating for change on the road layout up to Kensal Rise station and possibly beyond. The pavement will be widened and lowered in some points. Plans include a pedestrian crossing.

The Planning Information Guidance document has been published in hard copy.

The Voice

The Election Special will not be a standard edition of *The Voice* but an 'elections product'.

Events

An anti-idling day has been organised with Westminster City Council and local schools are involved.

Forward Planning Group

No working group meeting has been held since the last council meeting.

100-17/18 QPCC website – eight applications had been received, two agencies had been shortlisted and London Creative Design has been appointed to renew the QPCC website.

101-17/18 Financial report – the financial report was received. The Chief Officer was delegated to establish a banker's standing order to pay monthly salaries, and asked to suggest amounts to be earmarked for specific purposes in next year's budget.

102-17/18 The following dates for forthcoming meetings were agreed:

18 April

16 May

20 June

The meeting closed at 19:49.