



Council

24 April 2019

18-19: 148-166

Queen's Park Community Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Council

held at the Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue. London W10 4JL

on **Wednesday 24 April 2019** commencing at 18:00.

Present: Councillors Gill Fitzhugh (Chair), Alfrena Barbé, Leslie Barson, Ryan Dalton, Ray Lancashire, Orrel Lawrence, John McArdle, Susanna Rustin, Emma Sweeney and Stella Wilson.

Also present: Kevin Harris, Chief Officer; Lindsey Brown, Community Development Officer; and seven members of the public.

The meeting began at 18:06.

148-18/19 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Eartha Pond.

149-18/19 Declarations of interest – there were no declarations of interest.

150-18/19 Minutes of the previous meeting – the minutes of the Council meeting held 13 March 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair.

151-18/19 Public session – two representatives from a group of five school children asked Council to consider increasing the amount of safe public garden space in Queen's Park. A gardening group with young people was suggested.

152-18/19 Ethical standards - Joyce Golder, representing the Monitoring Officer, gave a presentation about the government report on the *Review of local government ethical standards* by the Committee on Standards in Public Life, and the Monitoring Officer's subsequent report.

Cllr Stella Wilson left the meeting at 18:26.

Given the particular relevance of the review to local councils, Westminster's Standards Committee had asked the Monitoring Officer to engage with QPCC. The Council was asked to implement Best Practice points 11 and 12. Ongoing training and support will be offered by the Monitoring Officer and her colleagues. The presentation reviewed the Nolan Principles and covered councillor behaviour and attendance. Training sessions will be provided on Declarations of Interest and other needs.

Cllr Ryan Dalton entered the meeting at 18:50.

Agreed:

1. To note the recommendations and best practice points from the review.
2. To adopt best practice point 11, as follows: 'Formal standards complaints about the conduct of a parish councillor towards a clerk should be made by the chair or by the parish council as a whole, rather than the clerk in all but exceptional circumstances.'

3. To amend the Code of Conduct to allow six months as opposed to three months to bring complaints in relation to bullying and harassment, recognising that it often takes time for a complainant to come forward in such cases. Bringing the council into disrepute comes within the code of conduct.

Cllr Stella Wilson returned to the meeting at 1852.

153-18/19 Financial report – the Chief Officer clarified details in the Council Detail Report for the financial year end. The report was noted and the List of payments 1 March to 11 April; Council Detail Report 11/4/2019; and Bank Reconciliation statement 8 Apr 2019 were **approved**.

154-18/19 QPCC website – delays in completing the new site were noted.

155-18/19 Office relocation – the solicitors' work was nearing completion and a ten-year lease was being secured. Quotes from two builders had been received with a third to come. Discussions with PDT regarding their interest in moving with the Council, are underway.

156-18/19 Volunteer development – the Council is now a member of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations which gives access to expertise and training. Policies and procedures are being prepared and the partnership with Octavia Housing, regarding a befriending service, is being developed. The Council is now eligible to manage time credits.

157-18/19 HR – it was noted that the Chief Officer has resigned his post. HR Committee will meet on 1 May to begin the task of recruiting a replacement. The mediation process is ongoing and a report will be brought to Council.

158-18/19 Events Coordinator– the role has been publicised with a deadline of 28 April.

Cllr Alfrena Barbé left the meeting at 19:13 and returned at 19:15.

159-18/19 Annual report – a draft of the report will be sent to councillors for comment on 26 April, with a view to sending final copy to print on 2 May.

160-18/19 Annual meeting – the planning group has not yet met but the event is being organised virtually.

161-18/19 Community Gardening – the renewal of the contract to HCGA was **approved**.

162-18/19 Dog Strategy – the renewal of the contract to Canine Culture was **approved**.

163-18/19 Planning applications –the recommendations of the working group were **approved**.

164-18/19 Working groups –

The Voice – the next edition will be delivered in June.

Social Inclusion – Cllrs Alfrena Barbé, Leslie Barson and Stella Wilson will meet together with the officers on 22 May.

Public & Community Arts – a meeting had been held followed by a walkabout to identify local spaces that could be improved through arts. The next meeting will explore ways to take the ideas forward. Attention was drawn to the need where necessary to have certificates of lawfulness. Space for arts projects has been offered at St John's Church.

Forward Planning – the group met recently and is scheduled to meet again on 26 June.

Events – planning for the events is dependent on the recruitment of an Events Co-Ordinator, which is in progress.

Environment & Open Spaces – final permission for the development of the hut in Queen’s Park Gardens is imminent. Meetings are being held with Axis with a view to funding for this work, and with David Sear from WCC.

Community Engagement - Cllrs Alfrena Barbé, Leslie Barson and Stella Wilson will meet together with the officers on 22 May.

Children & Young People – in Cllr Ryan Dalton’s absence due to illness, Cllrs Eartha Pond and Gill Fitzhugh had met with the Community Development Officer. Another meeting is planned.

Air Quality – Cllr Lancashire presented figures from the December 2018 study showing lower levels of pollution compared to June 2017. Cllr Lancashire had met with Hayley Regan from WCC to discuss joint approaches to anti-idling. A survey of trees has been carried out to identify those most needing attention and WCC have agreed to address these.

Neighbourhood Planning – it is now hoped to submit the plan in summer once the City Plan has been agreed.

165-18/19 Chair’s report – the items in the Chair’s report had been covered elsewhere in the agenda.

166-18/19 Officers’ report – the report was noted.

The meeting closed at 19:41.