

## QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held at the Beethoven Centre, Third Avenue  
London W10 4JL on **Wednesday 19 June 2019** commencing at 18:00.

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**Present:** Councillors Gill Fitzhugh (Chair), Alfrena Barbé, Leslie Barson, Ryan Dalton, Ray Lancashire, Orrel Lawrence, John McArdle, Brian Nicholas, Eartha Pond, and Susanna Rustin.

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

*The meeting began at 18:02.*

**031-19/20 Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Emma Sweeney.

**032-19/20 Declarations of interest** – there were none.

**033-19/20 Minutes of the previous meeting** –the minutes of the Council Meeting held 15 May 2019 were approved and signed by the Chair.

**034-19/20 Public session** – students of Wilberforce School gave a presentation to council expressing concern about environmental sustainability and describing projects they have been working on, some part-funded through the Pop Up Fund. The students were invited to suggest project ideas for the council to adopt. A member of the public suggested that Harrow Road retailers could be discouraged from giving out plastic bags, for example if the council could provide a number of re-useable cloth bags for shoppers.

**035-19/20 Annual return for year end 31 March 2019** – the return was **approved**.

**036-19/20 Internal Auditor's report** – the report was **approved**.

**037-19/20 Annual Governance Statement** – questions 1-8 in the statement were answered 'Yes' and the statement was **approved**.

**038-19/20 Annual Accounting Statement** – the statement was **approved**.

**039-19/20 Insurance** – the Chief Officer confirmed that the insurance was in order.

**040-19/20 HR** – the report on the mediation process has been circulated to councillors. There had been two applicants for the Chief Officer post. One was interviewed but not appointed.

*Cllr Ryan Dalton left the room at 18:30 and returned at 18:34.*

The next phase will involve using an agency, which has given advice on modifying the approach, including amending the documentation; and suggested an alternative job title, such as 'Director of Governance'. Advice from SSALC was to think 'outside the box' of the local government profession. There is some remaining budget but it may be necessary to ask council for a virement when costs are clearer.

Yudong Gao will continue to work as part-time finance officer. June Quammie will provide part-time admin support until the end of July.

**041-19/20 Office relocation** – the delays over the question of sub-letting have continued. It was confirmed that refurbishing costs will be around £5-6k with additional costs associated with re-furnishing.

**042-19/20 Grenfell tragedy second anniversary** – Cllr Pond had presented a wreath and a message had been sent to Justice4Grenfell.

**043-19/20 Operation London Bridge** – it was argued that the council should not have anything to do with this. **Agreed** to take no action at this stage.

**044-19/20 Pop Up Fund** – the application for £200 from A Future without Rubbish was **agreed**. A breakdown of the spend will be requested. While council supports the intention, more information should be provided in proposals. The Chair emphasised that this did not set a precedent.

*Cllrs Ryan Dalton and Brian Nicholas left the meeting at 19:07.*

*Cllr Dalton returned to the room at 19:08.*

**045-19/20 Volunteer development** – volunteer opportunities for the Befriending Project are being advertised in the Voice. Policies on volunteer support will be brought to council in September together with details of the Time Credit programme.

*Cllr Nicholas returned to the room at 19:10.*

**046-19/20 Planning applications** – the group is developing ideas for greater transparency and widening awareness of their role through community engagement, while also being more alert to issues.

Westminster's City Plan has been launched and a response will be considered. The Queen's Park Neighbourhood Plan dovetails with the plan.

Plans for Queen's Park Court have been seen by some councillors and members of the working group. Some parking space will be lost. The building in the present car park will be five storeys high, with solar panels on the roof.

The recommendations of the working group were **approved**.

### **Working Groups & Champions**

**047-19/20 Terms of reference** – the terms of reference for the Public & Community Arts and Social Inclusion working groups were **approved**. The terms of reference for the Community Engagement group were **approved** with the amendment that members would be expected to attend three events per year 'where possible'.

**048-19/20 Updates** – to receive updates from the following groups:

**Events** – ward council funding for the summer festival has been confirmed. The group proposes to reduce significantly the amount of waste, especially plastic, at the events.

**The Voice** – the latest edition is about to go to print for delivery in July. It includes some free advertising for local groups and initiatives.

**Community Engagement** – the group will begin with a presence at the summer festival, using a questionnaire survey. This will take account of previous consultation exercises and findings.

**Social Inclusion** – the group will be working on initial ideas to do with information and awareness.

**C4A** – games sessions have been run at Lydford Hall with an average of 50 people per session over the first six weeks. The group is looking to become established on a more sustainable basis.

*Cllr Brian Nicholas left the meeting at 19:57.*

**Air Quality** – monitors have been installed for the next air pollution study, mostly indoors with one outdoor monitor. Results are expected by early August.

*Cllr Nicholas returned to the room at 20:00.*

*Cllrs Ryan Dalton and Brian Nicholas left the meeting at 20:00.*

**Children & Young People** – a meeting is currently being organised.

**Environment and Open Spaces** – Axis Europe will pay for alterations to the park hut.

**Grants** – there was no report.

**Public & Community Arts** – a proposal is being developed for street art and will be brought to the next meeting. Ideas are also being developed for school workshops.

As a point of information it was noted that the choice of Chair for individual groups was a matter for the groups themselves. A review of the role of chairs and convenors should be brought to a future meeting of council.

*The meeting closed at 20:08.*