

## QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Beethoven Centre

on **Wednesday 20 October 2021** commencing at 18:00.

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**Present:** Councillors John McArdle (Chair), Eartha Pond (Vice Chair), Leslie Barson, Ryan Dalton, Gill Fitzhugh, Ray Lancashire, Orrel Lawrence, Marcus Leon, Susanna Rustin, and Emma Sweeney.

Also present: Lucie Prior (Director), Shuwanna Aaron (Community Development Officer), Millie Kent (Project Officer), Fabien Sharp (Chief Executive, Avenues Youth Project) and one member of the public. Liz Thorpe-Tracey (Communications and Events Co-ordinator) and two members of the public joined the meeting by Zoom.

**029-21/22 Apologies for absence** – there were none. Councillor Dalton said he might be late due to other commitments.

**030-21/22 Declarations of interest** – No new declarations were made. Dispensations to participate in the discussion on item 033 – 21/22 Avenues Youth Project were granted for Councillors Dalton, Leon, and Pond. They would not be participating in the vote.

### **031-21/22 Minutes of the meeting held 23 June 2021**

**RESOLVED** THAT, the minutes be APPROVED as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **032-21/22 Public Session**

Simon Walton raised two matters on the Neighbourhood Plan and the fly tipping on Ilbert Street. Mr Walton said the Neighbourhood Plan will need to be included when he is assessing planning applications for the Planning Working Group and he prefers to read from paper than a screen. Since the bins had been removed from Ilbert Street there had been an increase in fly tipping. The Director informed the meeting that the bin removal was a trial by WCC and comments about it should be sent to: [reducereuserecycle@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:reducereuserecycle@westminster.gov.uk). Fly tipping should be reported via <https://report.westminster.gov.uk/>

**RESOLVED** THAT, the Director would provide a printed copy to Mr Walton once the Neighbourhood Plan has been made by Westminster City Council.

### **033 – 21/22 Avenues Youth Project**

The Director had circulated a written report by the Avenues Youth Project on its work in Queen's Park. Fabian Sharp addressed the meeting, provided an update on The Avenues recent achievement of the Gold Youth Mark and took questions. The Chair thanked Fabian for his input, then revised the agenda to consider item 035 – 21/22 Special Grants next.

### **035 – 21/22 Special Grants**

Councillor McArdle, as coordinator of the Forward Planning Group had circulated a report recommending that the arrangement whereby the Council made an award of special grants each year be continued for a further three years. The report included proposals for closer working between the Lead Officers of the Council and Avenues Youth Project on the main grant and for a decision to be made annually on the allocation of the smaller grant.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the report be NOTED.

**RESOLVED** THAT, a proposal for an annual grant of £20,000 be made to The Avenues Youth Project in each of the three years from 2022/23, subject to confirmation of the award as part of the budget setting process for that year, be APPROVED.

**RESOLVED** THAT, a proposal for a further grant allowance of £5,000 be made available in each of the three years from 2022/23, subject to confirmation of the award as part of the budget setting process for that year, to be allocated by the People Committee, be APPROVED.

### **034 -21/22 Volunteer Development Policy**

The Director had circulated a report attaching a proposed Volunteer Development Policy, recommending that it be adopted by the Council. She explained that while there had been a policy in use for some time, it had not yet been formally adopted. The Community Development Officer had refreshed the current policy, and added the necessary parts from other policies to produce a comprehensive document for publication.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the Volunteer Development Policy, be APPROVED.

### **036 -21/22 People Committee Report**

Councillor Pond, as Chair of the Committee, delivered a verbal report. She highlighted the activities for Black History Month which included Councillor Nicholas' event at the Porchester Hall and the upcoming exhibition at the Beethoven Centre.

### **037 -21/22 Place Committee Report**

Councillor Rustin as Chair of the Committee delivered a verbal report. She spoke of the Harrow Road Open Space plans, Queen's Park in Bloom, the Community Clean Up in September, Councillor Lancashire's air quality monitoring, the new water fountain installed with CIL funding and that the first basement planning application had been granted approval for a property on The Avenues Estate.

### **038 -21/22 Financial Report**

Councillor McArdle, as Responsible Financial Officer, had circulated a detailed report on the current financial position seeking approval for payments made since the previous meeting and approval for an application to be made for a bank debit card to be used by the Director in making purchases.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the contents, be NOTED.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the payments, to the value of £ 47,435.94 set out in Appendix 2, be APPROVED.

**RESOLVED** THAT, a proposal that the application for a Debit Card on the Council's bank account be made be APPROVED.

**039 -21/22 Working Groups**

The Director reported that the autumn/winter edition of Queen’s Park Voice had been written and the front page would include the result of the Neighbourhood Plan referendum to be held the following day. The edition could go to print when the result was known..

**040 -21/22 Chair’s Report**

The Chair reported on the summer of Community Council activity since the end of lockdown. He then gave a call to action to Councillors. The referendum has seen a flurry of activity for door knocking and leafleting for the Neighbourhood Plan campaign and he asked Councillors to keep up their activities in the community and increase the visibility of the Community Council and the work it does.

**RESOLVED THAT,** the Chair’s Report be NOTED.

**041 -21/22 Officers’ Report**

The Director gave the Officers’ report that had been circulated with the papers. This included Governance activity, current staffing and The Queen’s Park Voice along with Officers’ work on the climate emergency, events and the Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED THAT,** the Officers’ Report be NOTED.

*The meeting closed at 19:45*

Signed by..... Date.....

Councillor. John McArdle (Chair)

Minute Ref: 044 – 21/22