

## **QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Beethoven Centre  
on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024** commencing at 18:00.

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**Present:** Councillors Eartha Pond (Chair), Samantha Alleyne, John McArdle, Emma Sweeney, Stella Wilson, Orrel Lawrence and Sandra Bynoe.

Also present: Shuwanna Aaron, Proper Officer and two members of the public.

**055-23/24 Apologies for absence** – Councillor Ali issued apologies stating the need to break fast as part of the observances of the holy month of Ramadan. A vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, Councillor Ali's Apologies be APPROVED

**056-23/24 Declarations of interest** - The Proper Officer received no new declarations of interest, and noted a standing declaration for Councillor McArdle as the RFO.

**057-23/24 Minutes of previous meetings** – The minutes of the previous meeting were included in the meeting papers and accepted as read. The minutes were seconded and a vote undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the minutes be APPROVED.

**058 -23/24 Public Session** – Residents raised concerns regarding dogs of leash in Queen's Park gardens and a dog owner becoming aggressive when concerns are raised. The resident requested that the Council do more to address dog related issues such as these and to request stronger enforcement by the City Council. The Proper Officer noted concerns and it was agreed that conversations will be had with the City Council to establish new/ improved avenues for tacking off leash dogs in the Park.

**059 -23/24 Minutes of the Committee Minutes** – The minutes of the previous Place and People Committee meetings held 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November were circulated in the meetings' papers and accepted as read. The adoption of the minutes was seconded and a vote were undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the minutes of the Place Committee Meeting are ADOPTED

**RESOLVED THAT**, the minutes of the People Committee Meeting are ADOPTED

**060 -23/24 Alderman Barrie Taylor** – Councillors Pond, McArdle, Sweeney and Bynoe shared stories recognising the contributions of Alderman Barrie Taylor to the Queen's Park Community and the establishment of the Queen's Park Community Council and a minute of silence was observed.

**061 -23/24 People Committee Report** – The chair of the People Committee delivered a report outlining the outcomes of the previous meeting of the committee in March 2024. (See Appendix A.) The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the report be NOTED

**062 -23/24 Place Committee Report** – The Chair of the Place Committee delivered a report outlining the outcomes of the previous meeting of the committee in February 2024. (See Appendix B) The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken

**RESOLVED THAT**, the report be NOTED

**063 -23/24 HR Committee Report** – The Chair of the HR Committee delivered a verbal report outlining ongoing recruitment for a community development officer, and pending appraisal for the Proper Officer. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the report be NOTED

**064 -23/24 Financial Report** – A financial a report was circulated a part of the meeting's papers and accepted as read. The RFO further outlined that the council hold in excess of £2000 in CIL to invest in a Capital project. Councillors shared ideas about projects that may benefit from such investment – such as projects that mark the Council's 10-year anniversary. The RFO also outlined payment to be approved. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the report be NOTED and payments be APPROVED.

**066 -23/24 Review of the Risk Management Policy** – The report was circulated as part of the Meeting papers and accepted as read. Cllr McArdle pointed out the key changes to the Policy and the underlying reasonings. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the report be APPROVED

**065 -23/24 Working Group Report** – The Working Groups Report was circulated as part of the meeting's papers and accepted as read. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED THAT**, the report be NOTED

**067 -23/24 Councillors' Report** – The Proper Officer delivered reports from Councillors Bynoe, Alleyne and Ali which were submitted prior to the meeting. Cllrs McArdle, Sweeney and Wilson delivered verbal reports. Cllr Lawrence did not deliver a report.

#### **Cllr Bynoe**

In my role as Councillor, I have been helping to run the Well-being Wednesday and Carer's time for Self activities at the Jubilee Community Centre on a weekly basis. I also helped out with the Black History Month and Winter Social.

#### **Cllr Alleyne**

I continue to support the Communita Project at Juniper House once a month – connecting with residents living within the sheltered accommodation and making them aware of health messages. We also play board games, run quizzes, play music Chair, run yoga session and provide a good hearty lunch.

#### **Cllr Ali**

- International Women's Day (8th March): Contributed to an article for social media.
- Written various articles promoting local activities for publication.

- Attended Eid in Queens Park meetings with local organisations such as QPBA, Queens Park Library, Lizzy, etc.
- Attended local Women's socials for networking and supporting their local activities.
- Promoted Queens Park Community Council's events on social media platforms, and shared on various local WhatsApp groups.

**Cllr McArdle**

I continue to engage s the Responsible Financial Officer daily, in addition to co-ordinating as the lead of the Planning Working group. I also engage with the Amenities societies form on behalf of the council, have taken part consultation with the City Council on the canal side and have called and facilitated meet8ing in my capacity as the Cahir of the HR committee.

**Cllr Sweeney**

I have engaged with the HR committee meetings and the recruitment process, I have also supported the clean-up and refurbishment of the Happy Hub to enable its use by the Community n addition to working with ~PDT to prioritise and share information regarding QPCC activities and events though the popular North Paddington WhatsApp group.

**Cllr Wilson**

I have shared a message on the Councillor's What App group regarding the Family Hub networks have signposted resident so they can access support.

The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the report be NOTED

**068 -23/24 Chairs' Report** – The chair delivered a verbal report outlining attendance at various City Council resident's consultation events, engaging with HR committee and ongoing work engaging young women in sports as part of the ESP foundation. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the report be NOTED

**069 -23/24 Officers' Report** – The Officer's report was circulated as part of the meeting's papers and accepted as read. The proper Officer outlined various key areas outlined in the written report. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

**RESOLVED** THAT, the report be NOTED

*The meeting closed at 19:32*

Minute Ref: 055- 069 – 23/24

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

**Cllr. Eartha Pond, Chair**

## Appendix A

Report To:	Queen's Park Community Council		
Title:	People Committee Report		
Purpose:	TO NOTE		
Author:	Shuwanna Aaron, Proper Office and Councillor Lawrence		
Date of Meeting	13 March 2023	Agenda Item	061 23/24

### 1 Summary

This report sets out some of the activity of the People Committee since the last meeting of the Full Council.

### 2 Recommendations

That the Council notes the report and discusses the matters raised.

#### Meeting and Decisions

- The People Committee met last on 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- Councillors Alleyne, Wilson, Pond, Ali, Bynoe and Nicholas were in attendance along with three members of the public.
- The meeting received a brief financial update confirming no areas of concerns in relation to the set budget.
- The Working Group provided updates on events between December and February and laid out brief plans for an Eid fun Day in April and a Community Day in May.
- Updates were also provided on the ongoing Wellbeing Wednesdays, Communtea, Carer's Time for Self projects and Volunteer inductions taken place in recent months.
- The Community Day report provided more details of the planned event and the opportunity for the Committee to input its ideas. The Committee approve the report and its recommendation that the 2024/2025 Community Engagement budget approved in January be put towards this project.
- The Eid Fun Day report outlined overall plans for the event and recommended that the Committee proposes an increase to the Community Engagement Budget to support this project. The income for this increased budget is expected from a pending Ward Budget application. The Proper Officer has since advised that payment of this funding, in addition to payments of invoices for this project are expected after the close of this Financial year – so the recommendation will be taken to a subsequent meeting of the Council.
- The Officer's Report outlined:
  - The delivery of events Between December and February and plans for upcoming events.
  - The start of QPCC' engagement at Citizen's Advice Bureau bi-monthly surgeries at the Beethoven Centre.
  - Support for the ongoing Health, wellbeing and Social Care Working Group projects
  - Ongoing Community Engagement Working Group projects and a report on the development of the Social Media strategy which will also be presented at this meeting.

## Appendix B

Report To:	Queen's Park Community Council		
Title:	Place Committee Report		
Purpose:	TO NOTE		
Author:	Shuwanna Aaron, Proper Office and Councillor Lawrence		
Date of Meeting	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Agenda Item	062-23/24

### 3 Summary

This report sets out some of the activity of the Place Committee since the last meeting of the Full Council.

### 4 Recommendations

That the Council notes the report and discusses the matters raised.

#### Meeting and Decisions

- The Committee met last on 7<sup>th</sup> February
- Councillors Diamond, McArdle, Bynoe, Sweeney and Ali were in attendance, along with three members of the public and Cathy Maund from HCGA. Councillor Wilson was absent.
- The Financial Report outlined no areas of concerns in relation the set budget.
- The Committee reviewed the key areas of the HCGA's successful tender to the City Council which proposed a number of greening projects in Queen's Park and were able to ask questions of the Contractor.
- The HCGA Contractors report highlighted the installation of sings for winners and runner-up from the 'Queen's Park in Bloom' competition, in addition to other business as usual.
- The Committee discussed the City Council's plans to introduce emission-based parking charges. The Committee instructed the Proper Officer to respond in objection to the blanket implementation, and made recommendation it felt would mitigate the impact on residents facing social- economic disadvantages. See appendix A
- Th Working Group report included an overview of the most recent air quality monitoring results and ongoing plans to produce the Councils' emissions calculations for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.
- Among other thing the Officer's report include updates on:
  - The planned re-turfing of the dog run and the installation of the new dividing gates.
  - Progress of the Queen's Park Open Space redevelopment which is due to start in the Summer.
  - Response from the City Council regarding the public realm improvement ambitions the committee laid out at the previous meeting
  - The pending restart of the Community Garden- Clean up Programme

## Appendix A:

To whom it may concern,

I am Shuwanna Aaron, Director of Queen's Park Community Council, a statutory body representing the interests of Queen's Park, Westminster residents.

In a meeting of the Place Committee on February 6th, QPCC Councillors discussed the proposed tariff and permit pricing restructure. Under delegated authority from the Full Council on such matters, the Committee voted to object to the proposals and has tasked me with submitting this official objection on the following grounds:

- 1) QPCC accept the need for action on climate change, promotes the decarbonisation of our community, and agrees that there is a need to nudge residents into adopting smaller and less polluting vehicles. The Committee, nonetheless, believes the implementation of this proposal is too hasty and does not adequately consider or mitigate the adverse and disproportionate impact on residents of Queen's Park (and North Paddington more broadly). As the City Council knows, many residents in these areas are socio-economically disadvantaged compared to all other parts of the City. While this proposal may incentivise those with the financial means to purchase more environmentally friendly vehicles, for others, it will act as a tax on the poor who cannot change their vehicles.
- 2) The Committee notes inadequate access to public transport, particularly for disabled residents who cannot access the trains and tube from Queen's Park Station, which does not have step-free access. Similarly, changes to local bus routes and bus overcrowding have also cut off or made travel by bus challenging for many. In particular, older, disabled and people travelling with buggies are often unable to access designated spaces and seats and face arduous journeys travelling across the City and further.
- 3) The proposal to implement charges for vehicles with 0 CO2 Emissions (with a small battery capacity of 1 - 69Kwh) where there was previously none breaks trust with the public, some of whom invested in such vehicles to minimise parking costs. This move will not only produce concerns regarding the underlying motivation of the new policy (environmental vs income generation). It also reduces residents' confidence that switching to more environmentally friendly vehicles will positively impact their long-term financial positions – with the unintended impact of discouraging those who feel that the cost of parking will continue to increase for 0 CO2 Emission vehicles.
- 4) The Committee also recognises that there are other, potentially more immediately impactful measures the City Council can take to reduce emissions without such adverse impacts on the most financially vulnerable residents - specifically focusing on mitigating the effects caused by big businesses and developers.

As Queen's Park Community Council is overall in support of the ambitions to decarbonise, the Committee has proposed the following amendment:

- 1) That current permit holder be permitted to retain their permit at the existing rate (adjusted for inflation) for as long as they continue to own their current vehicles, with new rates applying to current permit holders when they attain a new or replacement vehicle.
- 2) The City Council raises awareness of the Mayor of London's scrappage scheme and introduces a supplementary scrappage scheme to make environmentally friendly vehicles more affordable.
- 3) The City Council incentivises residents to give up high-polluting vehicles by offering travel passes, car club memberships or affordable bike buying or hire schemes. In so doing, the City Council will be supporting resident's move to more environmentally friendly travel options and enabling residents to save towards environmentally friendly vehicles.
- 4) The City Council works closely with TFL to address the inaccessibility of Queen's Park Station and local concerns in regards to bus routes.