

QUEEN'S PARK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Beethoven Centre

on **Wednesday 19th March 2025** commencing at 18:00.

Present: Councillors Samantha Alleyne (Vice Chair) Sandra Bynoe, Shifaa Ali, Roger Diamond, Stella Wilson, John McArdle, Orrel Lawrence.

Also present: Shuwanna Aaron, Proper Officer, Laurence Connelly, Community Development Officer and three members of the public.

064-24/25 Apologies for absence – Apologies were issued by: Cllr Pond – stating she was accepting an Award, Cllr Aktar stating she was breaking fast as part of the Ramadan and Cllr Sweeney who stated she was celebrating her daughter's birthday. Each apology was seconded and votes were undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, Cllr Pond's apology be APPROVED.

RESOLVED THAT, Cllr Aktar's apology be APPROVED.

RESOLVED THAT, Cllr Sweeney's apology be APPROVED.

065-24/25 Declarations of interest – Councillor Ali submitted a declaration of interest in regards to item 075 Memorandum of Understanding and was given dispensation to participate in the discussion but not the vote. The Proper Officer noted a standing declaration and dispensation on behalf of Cllr McArdle as the Responsible Financial Officer.

066-24/25 Minutes of previous meetings – The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th February 2025 were circulated as part of the meeting's paper and accepted as read. The minutes were seconded as an accurate record of the meeting and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the minutes be APPROVED.

067 -24/25 Public Session – A member of the public noted that the City Council were running an indoor air quality monitoring pilot and enquired whether the Community Council could support the initiative by promotion the offer among residents and local organisations. The Proper Officer was instructed to enquire with the City Council and circulate information to the public.

068 -24/25 Minutes of Committee Meetings – The minutes of the Place Committee Meeting held 15th November 2024 and the Minutes of the People Committee Meeting held 6th November 2024 were circulated with the meeting papers and accepted a read. Each of the minutes were seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the minutes of the Place Committee Meeting APPROVED.

RESOLVED THAT, the minutes of the People Committee Meeting be APPROVED.

069- 24/25 People Committee Report – The Chair of the People Committee delivered a verbal report noting the discussions at the last meeting of the committee and the decision to continue supporting the Health and Social Care Working Group’s Wellbeing Wednesday and Tone up Tuesday fitness programmes and to allocate funding to support a trial programme for the “Run the Avenues” project - an evening running club targeted to 18 – 45-year-olds. The Committee also allocated funding to the Community Engagement Working Group to facilitate a Language Café in partnership with local partners and a financial literacy programme facilitated in partnership with the London Mutual Credit Union. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the Report be NOTED.

070- 24/25 Place Committee Report – The Chair of the Place Committee delivered a verbal report noting the discussions at the last meeting of the committee and the decision to continue supporting the Air, Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group’s Community Clean- up and air quality monitoring projects, to allocate funding to a litter picking competition during the Great British Spring Clean and a three-part series of the swap and mend event to upskill residents, help reduce textile waste, promote recycling and upcycling to reduce the impact of fast fashion on the environment. The committee also agreed to allocate funding to the Public and Community Arts Working Group to facilitate a Community Cinema programme to take place in partnership with local residents and organisation celebrating and promoting inter-cultural exchanges across the community. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the Report be NOTED.

071- 24/25 HR Committee Report – The Chair of the HR Committee delivered a verbal report noting the successful recruitment of Laurence Connelly as Community Development Officer and that the CDO’s passing their probationary period following appraisal by the Proper Officer. The Chair also noted work undertaken by the Proper Officer to improve internal processes and oversee better management. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the Report be NOTED.

072- 24/25 Financial Report – The Financial Report was circulated with the meeting’s papers and accepted a read. The RFO summarised key aspect of the report and outlined the need to approve payments to the value of £10,662.41. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken. The approval of payment was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the Financial Report be NOTED.

RESOLVED THAT, the payment of £10,662.41 be APPROVED.

073- 24/25 Risk Management Policy – The Risk Management Plan was circulated with the meeting’s papers and accepted a read. The Proper Officer summarised that no new risks were identified, however some existing risks were reduced. The RFO noted that the Policy would be amalgamated with other risk related policies in the future. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the amended Risk Management Policy be APPROVED.

074 -23/24 Working Groups Report – The Proper Officer delivered a verbal report on behalf of the Grants Working Group noting that no pop-up grants were issued since the last meeting of Council, and that a meeting of the Grants Working Group would be called before the upcoming meeting of the Council to decide on the future of the Grants Programme. The Proper Officer also noted on behalf of the Voice Working Group that the next issue of the Queen’s Park Voice is in

publication and would be out for delivery in the weeks to come. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the Report be NOTED.

075 -23/24 Memorandum of Understanding – The Proper Officer noted that the report was circulate with the meeting's papers and accept as read. The Officer outlined that the amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding with SHCC were due to the need to include a financial arrangement between QPCC and SHCC as the programme funder requested that payment of the grant be made available to the Community Council as the primary partner in the grant application. The report was seconded a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the amended Memorandum of Understanding be APPROVED.

076 -23/24 Housing Survey – The Co-ordinator of the Air Environment and Climate Emergency Working delivered an update on the Housing Survey, noting among other things that:

- Overcrowding is a common issue in large households, often having multiple adults indicating multigenerational households.
- Residents' home related financial concerns were primarily in regards to the cost of rent and arrears.
- Most residents were struggling with a wide range of concerns including, damp, mould, broken windows, cold, respiratory issues (resulting from housing conditions), faulty electricity, inadequate heating, noise, pollution, pests, overgrown communal areas

Councillors raised a number of questions about how the data would be used, and whether there would be any comparative analysis with other research such as the ward profile and 2021 census. The Working Group Coordinator confirmed that the research and report aim to provide a snapshot of housing condition to supplement anecdotal knowledge and bolster the Community Council's evidence base for lobbying the City Council in relating to housing concerns it the community.

RESOLVED THAT, the Report be NOTED.

077 -23/24 Co-option – The Proper Officer noted that the report was circulated in the meeting's papers and accepted as read. The Proper Officer, re sated the process for co-option and a vote was undertaken to approve the process of co-option. Two candidates were present at the meeting and made their representations to the Council for three minutes, the candidates then responded to a range of questions posed by Councillors for a further three minutes each. One candidate noted interest in helping the community Council further it's work relating to children and young people, housing – conditions, availability, overcrowding and affordability, and the environment broadly. Another candidate noted concerns about the availability of services for young people of teenage years, due to closure of youth centres, or reduces hours, and to ambitions to support the Community Council better understand and work towards addressing the stigma faced by young people as well as supporting young people's mental health needs. Councillors discussed the merit of each candidate and votes were undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the process of Co-option be APPROVED.

RESOLVED THAT, the Millie Kent be Co-opted as a member of the Council.

RESOLVED THAT, the Shamsa Hersi be co-opted as a member of the Council.

The Proper Officer noted that due to technical difficulties, the co-opted Councillors Declaration of Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest would be signed at another point within the 28 days applicable in law.

078 -23/24 Chair’s Report – In the absence of the Chair the Vice-Chair noted that no Chair’s report would be received at the meeting.

079 -23/24 Officer’s Report – The Proper Officer noted that an Officer’s Report was circulated as part of the meeting papers and accepted as read. Councillors had no questions with regards to the report. The report was seconded and a vote was undertaken.

RESOLVED THAT, the Report be NOTED.

The meeting closed at 19:30

Minute Ref: 064 – 24/25	
Signed by	Date
Cllr.	