

## LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

### AUTHORITY MEETING 22 JANUARY 2015

Members Present:      Derrick Ashley (Chairman)              Graham McAndrew  
                                 David Andrews                                      Sarah McDermott  
                                 Kathy Bee    Maggie McEwen  
                                 John Bevan     Valerie Metcalfe  
                                 Stephen Carr    Paul Osborn  
                                 Ricki Gadsby    Gordon Nicholson  
                                 Christine Hamilton                                   Ellie Robinson  
                                 Linda Haysey    Mary Sartin  
                                 Ross Houston    Alan Searing  
                                 Heather Johnson                                      Alan Smith  
                                 Denise Jones    Syd Stavrou  
                                 Christopher Kennedy                                   Simon Walsh  
                                 Gerry Lyons     Lyn White

Apologies Received From:    Malcolm Cowan, Gwyneth Deakins

Also Present:                      Kulvinder Sihota – Lee Valley Leisure Trust  
   Alan Butler – Lee Valley Leisure Trust

Officers Present:                  Shaun Dawson                      - Chief Executive  
   Vivien Blacker                      - Corporate Director of Parklands & Venues  
   Beryl Foster                         - Assistant Director of Legal & Property  
   Simon Sheldon                      - Director of Finance & Resources  
   Stephen Wilkinson                   - Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships  
   Victoria Yates                      - HR Strategic Business Manager  
   Sandra Bertschin                   - Committee & Members' Services Manager  
   Lindsey Johnson                    - Committee Services Officer

#### Part I

#### 34      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No.	Nature of Interest	
John Bevan	5	Lee Valley Leisure Trust Trustee	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Linda Haysey	5	Lee valley Leisure Trust Trustee	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Kathy Bee	5	Wandle Valley Regional Park Trustee	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Sarah McDermott	5	Wandle Valley Regional Park Trustee	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Mary Sartin	9	Epping Forest District Councillor	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Syd Stavrou	9	Epping Forest District Councillor	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Maggie McEwen	9	Essex County Councillor	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>
Gordon Nicholson	9	Broxbourne Borough Councillor	<i>Non-pecuniary</i>

#### 35      MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

**THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2014 be approved and signed.**

## AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES 22 JANUARY 2015

36 PUBLIC SPEAKING

No requests from the public to speak or present petitions had been received for this meeting.

37 2015/16 REVENUE BUDGET AND LEVY

Paper A/4200/15

TABLED recommendations from the Executive Committee meeting of 22 January 2015

Simon Sheldon, Director of Finance & Resources, gave a presentation on the current financial position and highlighting 3 levy options.

Some Members considered that the proposal from the Budget Workshop of a 1% decrease in the levy and 1% to fund the Community Access Fund should be endorsed as the Authority was in a period of transition. This would protect reserves for such issues as contaminated land and provide ongoing funding for the Community Access Fund which underpinned the Authority's aim of increasing community access.

The Vice-Chairman considered that a 2% decrease in the levy was affordable and prudent given that the Lee Valley Leisure Trust considered the expected savings and increased income for next year were deliverable. Whether this trend in levy decrease could be maintained in future years would be determined in light of the financial situation at the time.

Other Members considered that increasing costs at this time by introducing the Community Access Fund was questionable and queried whether the funding for this scheme would be better utilised by local authorities.

Members voted on the proposal of a 1% decrease in the levy and 1% to fund the Community Access Fund: For – 10; Against - 15.

After defeat of the amendment the substantive resolution was agreed by all those present.

- (1) a 2% reduction in the levy for 2015/16;**
- (2) additional net income, savings and priority areas as set out in Annex A to Paper A/4200/15 under Appendix B of Paper E/389/15;**
- (3) financing for the capital programme and revenue contribution to capital of £1.8m for 2015/16 as set out in Annex A to Paper A/4200/15 under paragraph 26 of Paper E/389/15;**
- (4) to introduce the Community Access Fund of £113K for a trial year to be funded from General Reserves in 2015/16;**
- (5) a net revenue budget of £11.192m;**
- (6) to fund £134K from General Reserves; and**
- (7) a minimum level of reserves of £4m be maintained as set out in Annex A to Paper A/4200/15 under paragraph 35 of Paper E/389/15 was approved.**

## AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES 22 JANUARY 2015

- 38 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE AUTHORITY'S ADOPTED EQUALITY POLICY Paper A/4199/15

The report was introduced by Stephen Wilkinson, Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships.

In response to a Member's disappointment that amendment of the policy had taken considerable time it was advised that the Authority had been delivering on many aspects already and only Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 applied to the Authority for the delivery of public services.

**(1) the adoption of the revised policy was approved.**

- 39 UPDATE ON THE LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT

Shaun Dawson, Chief Executive, gave an oral update on the Leisure Services Contract advising that:

- an Additional Authority meeting would be held on 5 February 2015 to approve the Leisure Services Contract;
- regular staff consultation was being undertaken; and
- the Lee Valley Leisure Trust was reviewing a new brand name.

- 40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 30 April 2015 at 2.00pm at Myddelton House.

- 41 **EXEMPT ITEMS**

**THAT based on the principles of Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information again on the principles as defined in those sections of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act indicated:**

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Section Number
9	Correspondence from Lea Valley Growers Association	5

- 42 CORRESPONDENCE FROM LEA VALLEY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

TABLED email correspondence dated 21 January 2015 from Lea Valley Growers Association

As requested by the Lea Valley Growers Association Members considered correspondence received from them on Park Development Framework proposals for area 6, 7 & 8.

The Chairman advised that responses had been sent to the Lea Valley Growers Association and the Lea Valley Food Task Force regarding their concerns.

**AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES  
22 JANUARY 2015**

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Chairman

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Date

The meeting started at 2pm and ended at 3pm.