

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ANNUAL AUTHORITY MEETING 2 JULY 2020

Members in remote presence:	Paul Osborn (Chairman) David Andrews Derrick Ashley Ken Ayling John Bevan Frances Button David Gardner Mike Garnett Ricki Gadsby Ross Houston Heather Johnson Denise Jones	Christopher Kennedy Graham McAndrew Valerie Metcalfe Gordon Nicholson Nigel Quinton Mary Sartin Simon Walsh Terry Wheeler John Wyllie David Stocker (Deputy for Steven Heather) James Beckles (Deputy for Rokhsana Fiaz)
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Apologies Received From: Rowena Champion, Steven Heather, Rokhsana Fiaz

Officers in remote presence:	Shaun Dawson Beryl Foster Simon Sheldon Dan Buck Jon Carney Paul Roper Paul Coates Jessica Whitehead Keith Kellard Victoria Yates Sandra Bertschin	- Chief Executive - Deputy Chief Executive - Director of Finance & Resources - Corporate Director - Corporate Director - Head of Project & Funding Delivery - Head of Active Communities - Volunteer Officer - Head of Finance - Head of HR - Committee & Members' Services Manager
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Also in remote attendance: Ian Kemp – Deputy Member, East Herts District Council
Julian Cheyne – Save Lea Marshes

Part I

40 MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

NOTED membership of the Authority:

Constituent Council	Member
Essex County Council	Ricki Gadsby Mike Garnett Valerie Metcalfe Simon Walsh
Hertfordshire County Council	David Andrews Derrick Ashley Frances Button Nigel Quinton

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Broxbourne Borough Council	Ken Ayling
East Hertfordshire District Council	Gordon Nicholson
Epping Forest District Council	Graham McAndrew
	John Wyllie
	Mary Sartin
	Steven Heather
London Borough of Barnet	Ross Houston
London Borough of Camden	Heather Johnson
London Borough of Enfield	vacant
Royal Borough of Greenwich	David Gardner
London Borough of Hackney	Christopher Kennedy
London Borough of Haringey	John Bevan
London Borough of Harrow	Paul Osborn
London Borough of Islington	Rowena Champion
London Borough of Newham	Rokhsana Fiaz OBE
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	Denise Jones
London Borough of Waltham Forest	Terry Wheeler
Non-Riparian London Boroughs	3 Vacancies
Co-opted Members:	
Environment Agency	Debbie Jones
Canal & River Trust	Sam Anderson-Brown

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Vice Chairman took the Chair.

1 (a) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

(1) Paul Osborn was appointed Chairman of the Authority.

The Chairman took the Chair.

1 (b) APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AUTHORITY

(1) Derrick Ashley was appointed Vice Chairman of the Authority.

2 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2020 be approved and signed.

Gordon Nicholson joined the meeting.

3 PROPOSED COMMITTEES AND GROUPS FOR 2020/21 - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMEN

Paper A/4282/20

(1) membership of Committees and Groups for 2020/21 as agreed at the meeting and set out as Addendum A to these minutes was approved; and

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- (2) any appointments unfilled at this meeting will be agreed through Group Leaders and reported to the next Authority meeting or Executive Committee was noted.

4 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES FOR 2020/21 Paper A/4283/20

The Chairman advised that an appointment to Waltham Abbey Town Partnership had been made as it was understood that the Partnership may start to meet again as a consequence of the pandemic.

Members considered that given the Leisure Services Contract with Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd had terminated there was no rationale for the continuation of Authority appointments to the Trust Board. Members expressed their thanks to the Authority appointed Trustees for their service.

- (1) subject to the appointment of Steven Heather to the Waltham Abbey Town Partnership, the proposals for appointments to outside bodies for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix A to Paper A/4283/20; and
- (2) termination on 31 July 2020 of Authority appointments to the Board of Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd as set out in paragraph 10 of Paper A/4283/20 was approved.

5 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21 Paper A/4284/20

Members commented that following the easing of social distancing and a possible return to in person meetings consideration should be given to holding hybrid meetings.

Members recognised that the lack of scheduled Member Visits this year because of social distancing was not helpful to new Members as the visits enabled Members to familiarise themselves with the wide ranging activities of the Authority and to meet staff. The Chief Executive advised that a virtual induction for new Members would be provided.

- (1) the calendar of meetings for 2020/21 as shown in Appendix A to Paper A/4284/20 was approved.

6 UPDATE ON KEY STRATEGIC PROJECTS/INITIATIVES

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on Work Programme Update, including:

- Budget Position and Recovery Plans;
- Re-opening of Venues July/August;
- Covid Security;
- Financial Viability;
- Managing the Venues Re-opening Process;
- Major Projects;
- Development Opportunity – Rammey Marsh; and
- Leisure Services Contract.

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In response to questions from Members, it was advised:

- revenue reduction planning scenarios continued to be developed to inform budget discussions in the autumn;
- investment was key to business planning going forward and borrowing would only be undertaken for projects that will deliver a return; and
- the largest capital project coming forward was the Ice Centre development and there was a natural pause following the planning process for reassessment of the project in the current circumstances.

Members commended staff for their efforts during this operationally and fiscally challenging time. Open spaces staff were highlighted as making a vital contribution in keeping parklands open to enable wellbeing during lock-down. The Regional Park had proven its role as London's green lung.

7 VOLUNTEERING

The Volunteers Officer gave a presentation on Volunteers Programme 2019, including:

- Volunteers and Covid-19;
- Volunteers Programme;
- Partnerships in 2019;
- Volunteer Hours;
- Individual Hours Highlights 2019;
- Monetary Value;
- Demographics;
- Reward and Recognition; and
- Investing In Volunteers 2020.

In response to questions from Members, it was advised:

- liaison was undertaken with volunteer centres and educational establishments across the region to promote volunteering opportunities;
- whilst being in line nationally with other organisations in regard to diversity statistics, it was recognised that BAME communities were under-represented when compared to London's ethnicity profile; and
- every effort was made to encourage volunteers from a diverse background.

A Member encouraged other Members to participate in volunteering events like he had.

8 WILDLIFE DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Head of Project & Funding Delivery gave a presentation on the Wildlife Discovery Centre, including:

- Programme Update;
- Photographic record showing build progress;
- Video showing views and outlook; and
- Opening Plans.

Members looked forward to visiting the Wildlife Discovery Centre when opened.

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9 ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

The Head of Active Communities gave a presentation on Active Communities, including:

- Events;
- Event Delivery 2019/20
- Events Future Planning;
- Youth & Schools;
- Youth & Schools Delivery 2019/20;
- Youth & Schools Future Planning;
- Sports & Active Recreation;
- Sports & Active Recreation Delivery 2019/20; and
- Sports & Active Recreation Future Planning.

Members commended the wide range of community activities delivered, recognised the benefits of the Community Access Fund and offered to assist in promoting activities in local areas.

In response to Member questions it was advised that:

- the Park's sites and facilities offered many opportunities for learning by a wide range of groups including those with disabilities and mental health issues;
- many groups repeatedly visited the Park as they found the experience supportive with real impactful work taking place after 2 or 3 visits;
- the Community Access Fund had been used by various groups to enable visits to the Park;
- liaison with Local Authority lead officers was undertaken to contact hard to reach communities; and
- opportunities to work with charities and government-led strategies were welcomed.

10 NEXT MEETING OF THE AUTHORITY

It was noted that the next meeting of the Authority will be held on Thursday, 22 October 2020 at 2.00pm.

11 RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & RESOURCES

On behalf of Members the Chairman expressed thanks to the Director of Finance & Resources for his long standing and valuable contribution to the Authority and wished him a happy retirement.

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 2.06pm and ended at 3.48pm

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ADDENDUM A

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES AND GROUPS 2020/21

COMMITTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 8 Members (at least 50% to be London Members), 1 Member nominated jointly by the non-majority groups preferably from one of the London Olympic Boroughs. MEETINGS: 12 per year or as required		
Labour (3)	Conservative (5)	Substitutes
Ross Houston	David Andrews	Denise Jones
Heather Johnson	Derrick Ashley	
Chris Kennedy	Valerie Metcalfe	
	Paul Osborn	
	Mary Sartin	
Chairman: Paul Osborn		Vice Chairman: Derrick Ashley

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 Members MEETINGS: 3 per year		
Labour (3)	Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (0)
John Bevan	Frances Button	
David Gardner	Graham McAndrew	
Terry Wheeler	John Wyllie	
	Simon Walsh	
Chairman: Frances Button		Vice Chairman: Vacancy

REGENERATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE – 11 Members MEETINGS: 6 weekly or as required		
Labour (5)	Conservative (6)	Lib Dem (0)
John Bevan	David Andrews	
David Gardner	Valerie Metcalfe	
Heather Johnson	Gordon Nicholson	
Denise Jones	Paul Osborn	
Chris Kennedy	Mary Sartin	
	Graham McAndrew	
Chairman: David Andrews		Vice Chairman: Chris Kennedy

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9 Members MEETINGS: 3 per year		
Labour (3)	Conservative (5)	Lib Dem (1)
John Bevan	Ken Ayling	Nigel Quinton
David Gardner	Mike Garnett	
Terry Wheeler	Gordon Nicholson	
	John Wyllie	
	Steven Heather	
Chairman: John Bevan		Vice Chairman: Vacancy

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TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

ICE CENTRE PROJECT WORKING GROUP – 10 Members		
MEETINGS: As required		
Labour (4)	Conservative (5)	Lib Dem (1)
Ross Houston	Derrick Ashley	Nigel Quinton
Heather Johnson	Valerie Metcalfe	
Chris Kennedy	Paul Osborn	
Terry Wheeler	Mary Sartin	
	Frances Button	
Chairman: Paul Osborn		

LAND & PROPERTY REVIEW WORKING GROUP – 7 Members		
MEETINGS: As required		
Labour (3)	Conservative (4)	Lib Dem (0)
Ross Houston	Derrick Ashley	
Heather Johnson	David Andrews	
Chris Kennedy	Valerie Metcalfe	
	Paul Osborn	
Chairman: Paul Osborn		

LEVY STRATEGY WORKING GROUP – 8 Members		
MEETINGS: As required		
Labour (3)	Conservative (5)	Lib Dem (0)
Heather Johnson	Derrick Ashley	
Chris Kennedy	David Andrews	
John Bevan	Frances Button	
	Valerie Metcalfe	
	Paul Osborn	
Chairman: Paul Osborn		

LEISURE SERVICES CONTRACT REVIEW WORKING GROUP – 8 Members		
MEETINGS: As required (to disband at the end of 2017)		
Labour (3)	Conservative (5)	Lib Dem (0)
Ross Houston	Derrick Ashley	
Heather Johnson	David Andrews	
Chris Kennedy	Valerie Metcalfe	
	Paul Osborn	
	Vacancy	
Chairman: Paul Osborn		Vice Chairman: Derrick Ashley

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Waltham Abbey Town Partnership	Steven Heather
Six Authorities Liaison Group (Formerly Enfield, Essex & Herts Border Liaison Group)	David Andrews Ken Ayling Valerie Metcalfe Gordon Nicholson