

LEE VALLEY REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 28 APRIL 2016

Members Present: Paul Osborn (Chairman) Valerie Metcalfe
Derrick Ashley (Vice Chairman) Alan Searing
John Bevan Simon Walsh (Deputy for Ricky Gadsby)
Chris Kennedy

Apologies Received From: Ricky Gadsby, Heather Johnson

In Attendance: Ross Houston, David Andrews, Malcolm Cowan, Linda Haysey,
Gordon Nicholson

Officers Present: Shaun Dawson - Chief Executive
Beryl Foster - Director of Corporate Services
Simon Sheldon - Director of Finance & Resources
Stephen Wilkinson - Head of Planning & Strategic Partnerships
Stephen Roberts - Head of Property
Jon Carney - Head of Parklands
Simon Clark - IT Manager (Lee Valley Leisure Trust Ltd) (part 1 only)
Marigold Wilberforce - Interim Property Surveyor
Sandra Bertschin - Committee & Members' Services Manager

Part I

721 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item No	Nature of Interest	
Paul Osborn	8	Authority Chairman	<i>Other Pecuniary</i>
Derrick Ashley	8	Authority Vice-Chairman	<i>Other Pecuniary</i>

722 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2016 be approved and signed.

723 PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

724 CYCLING STRATEGY

Paper E/444/16

The report was introduced by Ross Houston, Scrutiny Committee Chairman, including:

- the Scrutiny Committee recommended the development of a Cycling Strategy based on the outcomes of its Cycling Review;

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- outcomes of the Review included the need for a new route along the eastern side of the Park to alleviate pressure on the towpath, improved signage, cycle hubs and induction training for new cyclists;
- the development of a strategy would form the basis for the Authority to seek to work effectively with local authorities and other stakeholders and to apply for external funding; and
- there had been a great deal of enthusiasm for collaborative and partnership working from the authorities and stakeholders the Committee had received evidence from.

Members remarked that the forthcoming London Mayor and local elections provided a fresh opportunity for engagement with other organisations to improve and promote cycling. It was also highlighted that the Cycling Strategy should identify a variety of schemes across the Park to enable the Authority to take advantage of emerging external funding streams as well as self-funding.

- (1) the contents of the report were noted; and**
- (2) the allocation of £15,000 to fund a Cycling Strategy was approved.**

725 I.T USAGE POLICY REVIEW

Paper E/445/16

The report was introduced by Simon Sheldon, Director of Finance & Resources.

A Member highlighted a few drafting errors for correction, and it was suggested that correlation with the Information Commissioner's Office should be reviewed.

- (1) the changes and additions to the I.T Usage Policy set out at Appendix A to Paper E/445/16;**
- (2) delegation to the Director of Finance & Resources in conjunction with the Chief Executive to approve minor changes to the Policy from time to time to reflect system updates/changes be recommended to Authority;**
- (3) that any future significant changes will be brought back to Members for approval; and**
- (4) officers will provide Members with a full update of any changes made to the I.T Usage Policy every three years was noted.**

726 CONTAMINATED LAND UPDATE

Paper E/442/16

The report was introduced by Beryl Foster, Director of Corporate Services, including:

- User Guides had been developed to provide a concise, clear and easily understandable overview of conditions on sites; and
- due to recent high levels of rain and flooding the river bank at Holyfield Marsh had failed and exposed what is believed to be landfill, funding for the necessary consultancy work was sought.

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In response to Member's surprise that Spitalbrook had been reduced to low risk it was advised that the passage of time and proposed use as public open space, with no disturbance of the land, had led to the amended risk assessment.

- (1) the actions taken to date;**
- (2) the user guides – summary of risk ratings and recommendations attached at Appendix A to Paper E/442/16; and**
- (3) the outcome of the further supplemental land surveys on three sites as summarised in paragraphs 12 to 14 of Paper E/442/16 was noted; and**
- (4) the allocation of £13K to fund the consultancy work which is necessary at Holyfield Marsh as outlined in paragraphs 23 to 30 of Paper E/442/16 was approved.**

727 REVIEW OF AUTHORITY CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN Paper E/443/16
 REMUNERATION

The report was introduced by Beryl Foster, Director of Corporate Services, including:

- Members would be requested to submit their views on the roles of Authority Chairman and Vice Chairman to the Independent Remuneration Panel; and
- the Authority was not obliged to adopt the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

The Vice-Chairman declared that he had in the past worked with the proposed Independent Remuneration Panel Chairman at Herts County Council.

In response to a Member's suggestion that the previous Independent Remuneration Panel should be retained, it was advised that this had been a costly exercise and that the approach proposed would fulfil the same remit more economically.

Members remarked that the Independent Remuneration Panel would need to carefully consider its selection of comparable market data.

- (1) the establishment of an Independent Remuneration Panel to carry out a review of the remuneration for the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Authority;**
- (2) the appointment of Alan Warner as Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel; and**
- (3) delegation to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to appoint the other members of the Independent Remuneration Panel was approved.**

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728 UPDATE ON WITHDRAWN PROPOSED AMENDMENT 89LA TO CLAUSE 135 OF THE HOUSING AND PLANNING BILL

The Chief Executive updated Members on the withdrawal of proposed amendment 89LA to Clause 135 of the Housing and Planning Bill, key points included:

- the proposed amendment by Lord True sought to provide contributing authorities with the option of not paying the levy;
- the Authority had not been consulted about the proposed amendment;
- the Authority had sought support from a number of peers which had delivered some benefits; and
- following withdrawal of the proposed amendment subsequent feedback from government officers was that this was seen as a local issue which should be resolved by engagement with London Councils.

The Chairman advised that he and the Chief Executive would be meeting with London Councils' Chairman and Vice Chairman to discuss their concerns, but that any resolution would need to be agreed collectively by London contributing authorities, Essex and Hertfordshire County Councils as well as the Authority.

The Vice-Chairman remarked that this had been a very long running issue which started with abolition of the Greater London Council. He suggested that unless the Government wanted to take over funding the Authority as they did for Royal and National Parks, a simple solution would be for the precept to go back to the Greater London Authority. Authority Members had been responsive to councils increasing financial pressures by reducing the levy and maximising income from operations but parks could not be run at a profit.

Members agreed that it was essential to include the county councils in discussions and that the legacy venues had helped London Councils recognise the work the Authority undertook.

729 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
12	Proposed Disposal of Land at the Rear of 9 and 10 North Barn, Broxbourne	3

730 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF LAND AT THE REAR OF 9 AND 10 NORTH BARN, BROXBOURNE Paper E/446/16

The report was introduced by Beryl Foster, Director of Corporate Services, who advised that further correspondence had been received from the owner of number 9 North Barn and outlined the further information submitted in relation to the unregistered strip of land.

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Members emphasised that the Authority's acceptance of the adjusted consideration for land at the rear of number 9 North Barn was dependent on the matter being rapidly concluded.

- (1) that officers proceed to complete the disposal of the land at the rear of number 10 North Barn to the property owner on the terms set out in paragraph 7 of Paper E/446/16;**
- (2) that officers proceed to make a final offer to complete disposal of the land at the rear of number 9 North Barn to the property owner in the terms discussed at the meeting;**
- (3) in the absence of agreement from the property owner of number 9 North Barn the Authority proceeds to make an application for possession of the disputed land to the County Court;**
- (4) an application be submitted to the Secretary of State for consent to disposal of the land; and**
- (5) the signing and sealing of all necessary legal documentation was approved.**

Chairman

Date

The meeting started at 11.00am and ended at 12.08pm.