

## **Minutes of the Meeting of the NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at the Mansion House, Nonsuch Park on 17 June 2024**

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### **PRESENT -**

Councillor Louise Phelan (London Borough of Sutton) (Chair); Councillors Tony Froud (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), Peter Geiringer (London Borough of Sutton), Christopher Woolmer (London Borough of Sutton) and Robert Leach (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council) (as nominated substitute for Councillor Christine Howells)

In Attendance: Michael Teasdale (Representative, Friends of Nonsuch)

Absent: Councillor Julian Freeman (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council) and Councillor Christine Howells (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)

Officers present: Jackie King (Chief Executive, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council, Committee Clerk), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), Brendan Bradley (Chief Finance Officer, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), Vanessa Newton (Senior Accountant, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council), Mark Dalzell (Head of Parks and Open Spaces, London Borough of Sutton) and Dan Clackson (Democratic Services Officer, Epsom & Ewell Borough Council)

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### **1 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR FOR 2024/25**

The Committee was asked to appoint a Chair for Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee from Councillors representing Sutton Council for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

Councillor Christopher Woolmer proposed that Councillor Louise Phelan be appointed. Councillor Peter Geiringer seconded the proposal.

The Committee unanimously agreed that Councillor Louise Phelan be appointed as Chair for Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee for the Municipal Year 2024/2025.

### **2 QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

No questions or statements were received from members of the public.

### **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made by Members with respect to any items of business to be considered at the meeting.

#### 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee confirmed as a true record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 March 2024 and authorised the Chair to sign them.

#### 5 REPORT FROM 1ST CHEAM SCOUTS GROUP

The Committee received and noted the report submitted by the invited representative of the 1st Cheam Scouts Group, outlining the Scout Group's use of the Park.

#### 6 COMMERCIAL DOG WALKING CONSULTATION RESULTS

The Committee received a report presenting the results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation and recommending establishment of a Working Group to consider how the matter should be progressed.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Dog number limit.** It was noted that, according to the results of the consultation, the general opinion from the public was that there should be a 4 to 6-dog limit on the number of dogs walked at any time by one person. The Streetcare manager advised that the general view from professional dog-walkers was that a 6 dogs was the lowest the upper limit could be for their business to be viable.
- b) **Displacement.** It was considered that placing a limit on the number of dogs allowed to be walked commercially by any one person in Nonsuch Park could cause a displacement resulting in an increase in dogs walked instead at nearby parks in Epsom and Sutton instead.
- c) **Purpose of the working group.** Following a question from a Member, the Streetcare Manager advised that the purpose of the working group would be to consider the necessity and/or viability of a possible licensing scheme for commercial dog walking in the Park, and to consider what such a scheme may look like. Further to its considerations, the working group would make a recommendation to the Committee for a decision.
- d) **Consistency with other commercial operations.** It was noted that, should a commercial dog-walking licensing scheme be put in place, it would be important to remain consistent, with respect to the fees and charges, with other commercial operations in the Park, such as the fitness coaching that takes place in the Park. The Streetcare Manager confirmed that any money raised through a dog-walking licensing scheme would go directly towards the upkeep and maintenance of the park and would not be treated as a revenue scheme.
- e) **Licensing scheme in other parks.** It was confirmed that there were currently no commercial dog-walking licensing schemes in place for any

parks in Epsom & Ewell or Sutton. It was noted that responses to Qs 17 of the consultation indicated that the largest proportion of people who supported a licensing scheme in Nonsuch Park also supported the idea of such a scheme being extended to all parks in both boroughs.

- f) **Complaints from park visitors with respect to other parks.** The Head of Parks and Open Spaces stated that the dog-related complaints received from visitors of Nonsuch Park were also received with respect to other parks in the Sutton area. He stated that fouling in particular was an issue in some of the smaller, less busy parks. The Streetcare Manager confirmed that complaints were also frequently received with respect to fouling in Nonsuch Park.
- g) **Large dog groups and associated risks.** It was noted that there were currently no regulations in place for the number of dogs that could be walked commercially by a single person at any one time in the Park. The Committee considered the potential health and safety implications for park visitors associated with large groups of dogs, as well as the increased risk of dog fouling.
- h) **Dog-free areas in Nonsuch and other parks.** In response to a Member, the Head of Parks and Open Spaces confirmed that Overton Park, Quarry Park, and Thomas Wall Park in the Sutton Borough have fenced-off, dog-free areas. The Streetcare Manager confirmed that Nonsuch Park has a fenced-off dog-free area at each of the three entrance gates, and that people recognise and respect the no-dogs rule for the dog-free areas of the Park. She stated that there had been conversations on the idea of converting one of the dog-free areas to a dog-socialising area that could be rented out for dog meet-ups.
- i) **Report for next meeting.** The Committee agreed that a report with a recommendation from the working group would be brought to the Committee at its October meeting.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Receive the results of the Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Consultation, as seen at Appendices 2, 3 and 4 of the report.**
- (2) **Agree to establish a Nonsuch Park Commercial Dog Walking Working Group.**
- (3) **Approve the draft Terms of Reference for the working group, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report.**
- (4) **Appoint members to the working group, in line with the rules of membership as set out in the Terms of Reference at appendix 1 of the report.**

**The Working Group membership was agreed as follows:**

- **Councillor Louise Phelan (Chair)**
- **Councillor Julian Freeman**
- **Councillor Tony Froud**
- **Councillor Peter Geiringer**
- **Councillor Christine Howells**
- **Councillor Vanessa Udall**
- **Councillor Christopher Woolmer**

## 7 OUTDOOR DONATION POST

The Committee received a report providing an update on the Outdoor Donation Post project.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) **Location of café donation unit.** Chair: The Streetcare Manager confirmed that the café donation unit would be placed at the rear of the café in a prominent and eye-catching location.
- b) **Signage.** It was suggested that appropriate signage could be placed by the donation units to aid in drawing people's attention to them.
- c) **Potential use for Bovingdons events.** It was noted that the units could be used wirelessly on battery power for up to 4 hours. A Member enquired as to whether Bovingdons would be happy to use the donation units wirelessly during events, such as weddings, in order to receive donations for the Park from event attendees. The Streetcare Manager stated that she would discuss the matter with Bovingdons.
- d) **Effectiveness of indoor units.** In response to a Member, the Streetcare Manager stated that indoor donation units tend to garner higher usage than outdoor units. She continued to explain that indoor units are also far less susceptible to the vandalism and wear-and-tear that outdoor units are vulnerable to.
- e) **Cash donations.** In response to a Member, the Streetcare Manager confirmed that there would also be an option provided for the public to make cash donations.
- f) **Online donations.** A Member enquired as to whether it would be possible to provide a QR code to link people to a website to make online donations. In response, the Streetcare Manager explained that setting up a website and receiving online payments would have associated

administration resourcing challenges, and stated that the matter would need to be investigated further.

- g) Cheque donations.** In response to a Member, the Streetcare Manager confirmed that there would also be an option provided for the public to make cheque donations.
- h) Report for future meeting.** The Committee agreed that an update report on the contactless donation units would be brought to the Committee at its October meeting.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) Agree to halt the Outdoor Donation Post Project, due to prohibitive installation costs.**
- (2) Agree to officers procuring indoor, contactless donation units for the museum and café.**

## 8 NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2023-24

This item presents the Joint Management Committee's final accounts for the financial year 2023/24.

The Committee considered the following matters:

- a) Hire of bins.** The Streetcare Manager confirmed that the Park has three trade waste bins used for general waste produced within the Park. She explained that investigations had been made into the possibility of acquiring 'Bigbelly bins' that inform the Council when they are full and need emptying, but they were not considered a viable option for Nonsuch Park due to costs.
- b) Asbestos surveys.** The Streetcare Manager confirmed that there was asbestos in the roofing of the tractor sheds, on account of the time period in which they were built. She explained that the asbestos is not dangerous unless disturbed, and that the asbestos surveys were conducted routinely in order to the safety of Park users and staff.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved to:

- (1) Receive the final accounts for 2023/24.**

## 9 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25

To fix the dates and times for meetings of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

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Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Fix the day and time of its meetings for the municipal year 2024/25, as set out at section 2.2 of the report:**
- **Monday 17th June 2024, 10:00**
  - **Monday 14th October 2024, 10:00**
  - **Monday 20th January 2025, 10:00**
  - **Monday 24th March 2025, 10:00**

*The meeting began at 10.02 am and ended at 10.52 am*

COUNCILLOR LOUISE PHELAN (CHAIR)