

Minutes of the Meeting of the NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held on 29 January 2018

PRESENT -

Councillor Mike Teasdale (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council) (Chairman); ; Councillor Richard Broadbent (London Borough of Sutton), Councillor Mary Burstow (London Borough of Sutton), Councillor Alex Clarke (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council) and Councillor David Hicks (London Borough of Sutton).

In Attendance: Paul Airey (Nonsuch Voles) and Frances Wright (Nonsuch Watch)

Absent: Councillor Graham Dudley (Epsom & Ewell Borough Council) Kathryn Beldon (Clerk) and Gerald Smith (Friends of Nonsuch)

Officers present: Dominic Aslangul (Neighbourhood Manager), Mark Shephard (Head of Property and Regeneration), Brendan Bradley (Chief Accountant), Peter Steel (Head Gardener), Tony Wainwright (Accountant), Samantha Whitehead (Streetcare Manager) and Sandra Dessent (Democratic Services Officer)

26 ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC SPEAKING (IF REQUIRED)

Mr. Pinchbeck of Parkrun addressed the Committee with an update. Due to the seasonal weather effecting the running condition, the club had switched to the winter course incorporating straighter routes on maximum hard standing. To that end the Committee were informed that in the third week in January the club cancelled their regular meetings due to the unsuitable conditions. It was noted however that despite the club not running, marshals attended the car parks to ensure all members were aware of the cancellation, and Mr. Pinchbeck assured the Committee that marshalling remained a top priority for the club.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, expressed thanks to Mr. Pinchbeck for his efforts and all volunteers who assist with the running of the club.

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Councillors in items on this agenda.

28 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on 30 October 2017 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, subject to an amendment to minute 20, fourth paragraph as follows:

‘A proposal from Classic **Events** to host another Nonsuch Town and Country Show...’

29 NONSUCH PARK JMC - UPDATE ON HERITAGE LOTTERY FUNDING (HLF) BID

In November 2016 the Nonsuch JMC agreed to progress with the preparation of a Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) Parks for People bid, subject to sufficient match funding being secured. However the funds could not be finalised and the Committee were informed that the as from December 2017 the parks for people programme had ceased to exist. Nevertheless it was still possible to apply for funding through the Heritage Grants scheme the criteria for which was similar to the Parks for People guidelines.

A project enquiry outlining the proposed application had been sent to HLF’s Development Manager to acquire an early indication of the feasibility of the project, and the Neighbourhood Manager (LBS) reported that the feedback had been positive.

It was noted that it would take approximately three months for consultants to prepare the first stage of the bid, and the budget implications of £15,000 (the agreed sum to appoint the consultants) would be established at a later date.

The Committee noted that the required outcomes resulting from a successful bid were set out by the HLF and were similar for both the redundant Parks for People and replacement Heritage Grants scheme. It was therefore applicable to develop a bid based on the original proposals drawn up with volunteers and stake holders, with the addition of a further proposal to mark out the palace boundaries, a relevant heritage project reinforced by the Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society.

Clarification was sought on the definition of ‘non-cash’ contributions in relation to match funding and it was noted that volunteer hours submitted as part of the bid could be treated as currency in addition to other monies, i.e. number of volunteer hours x hourly rate = monetary value. It was noted that applicants were expected to provide at least 10% match funding for example £150,000 would have to be raised in the case of a £1.5m bid.

It was agreed that in order to progress the development of a bid within the tight deadlines set out by the HLF a working group would be set up to include the following officers/councillors:- Councillors Mary Burstow and Mike Teasdale; Dominic Aslangul (Neighbourhood Officer LBS), Sam Whitehead (Streetcare Manager EEBC), Peter Steel (Head Gardener), Tony Wainwright (Accountant) and Sandra Dessent (Democratic Services Officer). The meeting would be set up following confirmation from the HLF panel that initial proposals were acceptable.

Therefore having considered the report the Committee agreed the recommendation as follows:

- (1) To set up a working group (comprising the attendees listed above) to discuss and finalise proposals for an HLF Grants bid, and determine the feasibility of completing a first round submission by August 2018.

30 NONSUCH PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE FINANCE REPORT AND BUDGET 2018-19

The Committee were informed that the year-end working balance was forecasted to be approximately £134,000.

No increase to contributions from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council and London Borough of Sutton had been forecast for 2018/2019, and it was noted that the sum of £99,400 each was acceptable.

The forecasted outturn of £4,500 against an initial forecast of £1,000 for electricity was discussed and Brendan Bradley (Chief Accountant) explained that invoices since 2013 had been based on estimated usage, and a one-off adjustment invoice had been received based on actual usage. Going forward, usage should be easier to monitor in light of the installation of a separate meter for Friends of Nonsuch/Museum.

Accordingly, the Committee:

- (2) Noted the latest 2017/2018 forecast position
- (3) Agreed the revenue budget for 2018/2019 as set out in Annexe 1
- (4) Agreed to seek contributions of £99,400 from both Epsom and Ewell Borough Council and the London Borough of Sutton for the financial year 2018/2019.

31 EVENTS IN THE PARK

Samantha Whitehead – Streetcare Manager outlined a proposal to hold a soapbox race in Nonsuch Park, similar to the Red Bull event, but smaller using self-propelled vehicles on a flat course. Any profit would be donated to Friends of Nonsuch. Based on the information presented at the meeting the Committee agreed in principal to the event, subject to the submission of an acceptable event management plan.

The importance of Awareness Day (9 September 2018) in terms of the participation of Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee members was also discussed and all those present were encouraged to make a commitment to attend.

Accordingly, the Committee noted the current event calendar.

32 PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee was updated on the status of the Magnetometry survey and informed that Nikki Cowlard and her colleagues from the Epsom & Ewell Archaeology Society (EEHAS) were in the process of mapping more 30m square grid, following the encouraging results from the initial trial. It was also reported that Nikki Cowlard was keen to meet with Professor Biddle whose experience and expertise would greatly add to the project, due to his involvement in the excavation of the site in 1959. It was also suggested that a press release be compiled asking members of the public for their memories of the dig.

With regard to the marking out of the palace boundaries, it was agreed that the project could be included in list of key themes under the strengthening and promotion of the heritage value of the park.

It was noted that there were no plans for excavation or digging in the woodland area.

The Committee welcomed the news that the kissing gate for the Round Pond had been installed and a Heron had been sighted which was a good sign that the gate was fulfilling its purpose. It was noted also that the water level in the pond was slowly rising.

The project to develop dementia friendly signs was progressing in partnership with Epsom & Ewell's Community Services with a view to adopting a uniform approach for the signs and pooling resources.

The following updates were received from volunteer groups:

Nonsuch Voles: In addition the quarterly update detailed in the agenda, Paul Airey from Nonsuch Voles reported that there had been several incidents of vandalism since the last meeting.

It was agreed that incidents of vandalism would likely reduce with the erection of further fencing and opportunities for grants were currently being explored and would be reported to the Committee at a later date.

Councillor Richard Broadbent on behalf of the Committee thanked the Nonsuch Voles for their efforts in clearing the Wickham Avenue and main ditch to promote drainage.

Nonsuch Watch: Frances Wright of Nonsuch watch expressed her disappointment at the lack of feedback to information she had circulated on scenic pollution in Nonsuch Park particularly in relation to the decision to allow additional parking for an event to be held in May 2018. The Committee acknowledged the position outlined in her email, and reassured her that steps were being taken to ensure minimal disturbance of the land in question, and any further requests for extended parking would not be allowed automatically.

To assist with the planning of future projects it was agreed that following the event a report would be submitted to Committee detailing how the event was managed and any environmental impact resulting from the additional parking.

Friends of Nonsuch: Gerald Smith of Friends of Nonsuch was unable to attend the meeting to give a verbal update. However he wished it to be noted that the refurbishment of the museum was going well and the gallery, the only part of the museum that was still open continued to attract many visitors in particular those from overseas.

Accordingly, the Committee considered the updates provided in the report and noted its contents.

33 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Committee resolved to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended) and that pursuant to paragraph 10 of Part 2 of the said Schedule 12A the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Note: Members of the Committee were reminded of the need for confidentiality in respect of those items not considered in public

34 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes from the meeting of the Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee held on the 26 June and 30 October 2017 have not been published because the meeting was closed to the press and public on the grounds that the nature of the business to be transacted/nature of the proceedings dealt with information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

35 PROGRESS REPORT ON CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION - JANUARY 2018

The Committee agreed a way forward as set out in the Minutes.

Note: The details are considered officially sensitive at this time and the Minute for this item will be exempt from publication.

The meeting began at 10.00 am and ended at 11.55 am

COUNCILLOR MIKE TEASDALE (CHAIRMAN)

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