

London Borough of Islington

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE
19 September 2013

Minutes of the meeting of Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD on 19 September 2013 at 6.00pm.

Present:

Councillors: Janet Burgess, Barbara Sidnell and Catherine West

Observers: Councillors: None

Also present: Councillors: Wally Burgess and Kaya Makarau-Schwartz

Councillor Sidnell in the chair

104 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillor Watts.

105 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (A2)

Councillor Janet Burgess substituted for Councillor Watts.

106 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A2)

Councillor Janet Burgess declared an interest in agenda item B3 – Whittington Park Community Centre asset transfer – as a Trustee of the Association and said that she would leave the room before consideration of and decision upon that item.

107 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2013 (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

108 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND (Item B1)

A revised version of Appendix A was laid round, which set out full details of the bids received, which would be interleaved with the formal record of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

(a) That awards be approved as set out in revised Appendix A to the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities and attached to these minutes, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) being satisfied that all necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(b) That the additional proposals received for summer festivals and related events that were approved following the July Committee, detailed in Appendix A to the report, be noted.

(c) That the budget amendments for Barnsbury, Highbury East and St Peter's Wards, resulting from project underspends and detailed in Appendix A, be noted.

(d) That officers in the Partnerships Team be thanked for their work.

Reason for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington.

Other options considered

None.

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Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

109 **ISLINGTON COMMUNITY SPORTS ACADEMY ASSET TRANSFER (Item B2)**

Mr Lennie Hagland, a representative of the Boxing Club, stated that a long term lease would enable the Club to obtain funding to bring the building into community use and expand its provision.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the land edged red on the plan in Appendix B to the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities be transferred to Islington Community Sports Academy by:

i) entering into a 25 year lease at a peppercorn rent with a positive covenant for community use only

ii) entering into an agreement for a 99 year lease at a peppercorn rent conditional on Islington Community Sports Academy obtaining planning permission for and providing to the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources evidence of sufficient funding to carry out at least the Bronze Option 1 development of the land as set out in paragraph 4.10 of the report.

(b) That the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration carry out the necessary consultation for the grant of the proposed leases of the land and decide whether or not to confirm the grant of the lease and agreement for the lease, having had proper regard to any consultation responses.

(c) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources be authorised to confirm the grant of the 99 year lease on satisfaction of the conditions referred to in resolution (a) (ii) above, having considered the planning permission obtained to carry out an approved scheme and the evidence of funding provided in accordance with the Council's agreed Asset Transfer Policy and Principles.

(d) That all officers and volunteers involved in this project be thanked for their work.

Reason for decision

To support the redevelopment of a significant sports centre for the local community and to retain a valuable resource in the Borough.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

(Councillors Janet and Wally Burgess left the meeting before consideration of the following item.

110 **WHITTINGTON PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSET TRANSFER (Item B3)**

Liz Case, the Secretary of the Association, stated that community use of the facilities had increased but the poor condition of the building prevented progress. A lease would help the Association to fundraise for improved provision.

RESOLVED:

(a) That, subject to the outcome of the consultation to formalise occupancy arrangements at Whittington Park Community Centre by:

i) granting Whittington Park Community Association a 20 year lease of the Centre at a peppercorn rent, with a positive user covenant for community use only, with a right for the Council to terminate the lease if the Centre ceases to be used for community use.

ii) entering into an agreement for a 50 year lease of the Centre with Whittington Park Community Association, at a peppercorn rent, conditional on the organisation providing evidence of sufficient funding and securing planning permission to carry out an approved scheme of works to the Centre

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- the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration and Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) be authorised to carry out the necessary consultation for the grant of the proposed leases of the Whittington Park Community Centre and to decide whether to confirm the grant of the lease and agreement for lease, having had proper regard to any consultation responses.

(d) That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Corporate Director of Environment and Regeneration, be authorised to confirm the grant of the 50 year lease on satisfaction of the conditions referred to in resolution (ii) above, having considered the planning permission obtained to carry out an approved scheme and the evidence of funding provided in accordance with the Council's agreed Asset Transfer Policy and Principles.

(e) That all officers and volunteers involved in this project be thanked for their work.

Reason for decision

To formalise occupancy arrangements at the Centre and to enable Whittington Park Community Association to raise additional funds to develop its role as community hub.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

The meeting closed at 6.25pm

Chair