

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

THURSDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2015 at 19.00 for 19.30
at OMNIBUS, 1 Northside, Clapham Common, SW4 0QW

PRELUDE: INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMON

Anna Jefferson-Smith gave a presentation including slides regarding the history of the Common. The slides and commentary referred to, *inter alia*, John Burns MP, Speakers' Corner, the Temperance Fountain and sheep on the Common in 1931.

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Helen O'Malley (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting including Cllr Jane Edbrooke (Executive Cabinet Member and President of CCMAC), plus Parks Manager Joyce Guiste.

CCMAC members introduced themselves and spoke of their particular interest in the Common. Thanks were given to Joyce Guiste, Parks Manager.

Apologies for absence had been received from Gareth Hughes, Dr I. Boulton, Simon Millson, Peter Schmidt, Alistair Johnstone and Cllr C. Wellbelove.

ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

1. HOM explained the election process. Shirley Cosgrave, Michael English and Anna Jefferson-Smith were not standing for re-election. The remaining seven members were standing again plus three prospective members.

Cllr Jane Edbrooke, President of the CCMAC, was elected as Chair for the AGM.

2. Minutes of the Annual Open Meeting held on 6 February 2014
– approved subject to the following amendments: **Lorna Lee had been co-opted** to the Committee. The reference to Mount Pond should have been to Eagle Pond.

3. Matters arising from the minutes: none.

4. Chair's Annual Report for 2014 – HOM spoke to the Chair's report for 2014-15. She thanked Shirley Cosgrave, Michael English and Anna Jefferson-Smith for their services to the Committee.

HOM pointed out that the CCMAC had been in existence for 10 years and LBL was carrying out a consultation regarding the future of parks and green spaces in the next 10 years. The relationship between CCMAC and LBL was sometimes difficult to manage. For example, LBL had to be persuaded that the Common needed an Area Manager. We had lost Victor Chin Kit and were without a Manager until Joyce Guiste was appointed on a temporary basis. HOM thanked JG for her excellent contribution. HOM referred to various issues over the year including storm damage to trees, the low water level in the paddling pool and the leaking water main. There had been three very large events on the Common namely Moonwalk, Live Nation's Calling Festival and SW4. There were other events such as Foodie Festival, Colourscape and the Common People event. Little League continued to use the Common. There had been negotiations with Veolia regarding using space in the Green Waste Depot for food growing and propagation. BandstandBeds had organised a successful event at The Spinney. There had been a serious fire at the Bowling Green Pavilion. A current concern was the preservation of trees on the Common. It was difficult to achieve a balance between the interests of sports, commercial users and asset management sections within the Council and other users such as the general public, dog walkers, model boat users, anglers, children etc. The Common must be preserved for all users and for the Community at large. HOM thanked Skender Joshi (Park Keeper) for his dedication. HOM observed that the Committee must take forward the LBL consultation regarding partnership parks.

5. Treasurer's Report for 2014 – George Owen spoke to his report. The balance had gone up since last year by £1,000 owing to two donations. The balance sheet was available for inspection.

6. Amendments to the constitution – Proposal to delete the words "at least 21 days" from Clause 9 of the Constitution – AGREED.

7. Election of community representatives – elected: David Dandridge, Lyndsay Jones, Diana Linskey, Alison Macnair, Simon Millson, Alex Nickson, Helen O'Malley, George Owen, Peter Schmidt and Fred Uhde.

AGREED to reject Gareth Hughes's nomination as submitted out of time, but to consider his co-option to the Committee at the next appropriate meeting.

Deryn Watson was appointed the representative of the Clapham Society.

PRESENTATIONS

8. Joyce Guise, Parks Manager

JG manages the repair and maintenance of Clapham Common, Agnes Riley Gardens and Grafton Square Garden and instructs contractors. She reported that there had been complaints about the condition of the children's playgrounds. Repairs had been carried out to the one on the Battersea side. The football pitches were in a bad condition. They would be allowed to rest between April and July. Maintenance of paths cost some £50,000. The paddling pool was very expensive to maintain. Men on Community Payback carried out work on the Common and were organised by Skender Geshi. The green waste depot was an operational site used by Veolia, but some of this area was being brought back into community use by BandstandBeds. Health and HIV testing was now being carried out by the Brighter Partnership in the room behind La Baita café. JG recommended that a management plan be prepared. This would be required for an application for Green Flag status which would, in turn, enable more funds being allocated to the Common.

9. Website

Alex Nickson reported on the progress made in preparing a CCMAC website and presented a draft of its home page. A domain name had been registered, namely www.claphamcomon.london. The website would be a source of information about the Common and what was going on in and around it. It would include a map of the Common, notes on its history and biodiversity, events listings and links to other pertinent sites.

10. Cllr Jane Edbrooke

JE reported on LBL's cooperative parks programme. CCMAC was seen as a precursor to a Clapham Partnership Park. A new committee would work in tandem with local residents. Training was in place

with regard to Partnership Parks and would cover budgeting, income and finance, management and maintenance. Reference was made to the Streatham Common Co-operative which is a new local social enterprise, not-for-profit led management of The Rookery on Streatham Common. SCCOOP as full management of The Rookery (in other words, is a Level 3 partnership park), but it was envisaged that any CC partnership would be level 2 only. JE stated that the budget for parks and green spaces was being reduced from £10.5m to £6.5m and therefore LBL was carrying out a consultation as to how that £6.5m is spent. She referred the audience to the Culture2020 consultation at <http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/consultations/cultural-services-by-2020>. JE outlined the Council's new events strategy. The strategy would be developed across the borough based around five core zones, Clapham being one of them, and each one would have no more than eight major events per year. It was proposed that 2/3 of the income from events would be ring-fenced for parks and green spaces; 1/3 of CC's income would go back to CC.