

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 7 October 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 7 October 2013 at 12.15 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Alderman Robert Hall
Deputy Alex Deane
Deputy Robert Howard
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Justin Meath-Baker
Robert Cazenove
Catherine Bickmore
Richard Gurney
Councillor Bryan Collier
Councillor Joy Laguda

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Nagle	- Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Charles Maybanks	- City Surveyor's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Jennifer Allott	- Open Spaces Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were apologies from Deputy Michael Welbank and Reverend Stennett Kirby.

2. **DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Wendy Mead declared a non-pecuniary interest in regards to items on the agenda due to her membership of the City Bridge Trust Committee.

3. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

Following the resignation of Alderman Robert Hall as Deputy Chairman of the Committee, an election for the post was held in accordance with Standing Order 30. The Town Clerk read out a list of names of Members eligible to serve and Deputy Alex Deane, being the only Member expressing his willingness to

serve, was duly appointed Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.

The Chairman welcomed Deputy Deane to the Deputy Chairmanship, and then invited Mrs Barbara Newman to deliver a Vote of Thanks to Alderman Robert Hall. The Vote of Thanks was carried unanimously and upon its conclusion, Alderman Hall took the opportunity to thank the Committee for their kind words.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 22 July 2013 be approved as a correct record.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Superintendent of West Ham Park delivered an update on recent issues and activities affecting the Park.

Staff

The Superintendent noted that interviews for the post of West Ham Park Manager would take place on 21 October, the results of which will be reported to the Committee in November. He took the opportunity to thank the interim manager, who had come from within the North London Open Spaces division, for their support of the West Ham Park team over the past six weeks. The Superintendent also noted that one of the *Roots and Shoots* work placement candidates had been appointed as an apprentice in the Park on a two year fixed term contract, and that the candidate will also be attending Capel Manor College to train towards their Royal Horticultural Society level 2 qualification.

Works

The Superintendent reported that summer bedding was about to be removed, with installation of spring bedding over the next fortnight. Work had commenced using the third and final year of City Bridge Trust funding to replace hedges around the tennis courts with native mixed species, replacing of pockets of perimeter shrubbery and increasing the number of native tree species. The final 1700m squared of wildflower meadow was due to be sown, to include thousands of native poppy (*Papaver rhoeas*) that will flower next summer to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Great War. The inclusion of poppy is part of the Royal British Legion Real Poppy Campaign and sees similar sowings in City Gardens and across North London Open Spaces. The Superintendent concluded the works update by noting that spring bedding from the Park nursery were due to be despatched shortly, and that preparations had been made for two functions at the beginning of November.

Awards

The Superintendent reported that the Park had been awarded its 15th Green Flag and 5th Green Heritage award, as well as a Gold award and 'Park of the Year' award from London in Bloom. Overall the Park dropped only 16 points out of 200 and came top among 17 candidates.

Events

The Superintendent updated the Committee on the visit of the Lady Mayoress to the Park on 5 September, which included her being presented with a jar of tomato jam by a Friend of West Ham Park. The visit received coverage in the Newham Recorder. Furthermore there had been a bat walk on 26 September involving 67 attendees of all ages. This was followed on 28 September by a volunteer day organised by The Challenge Network that saw 55 young people volunteer to help velar cuttings from the wildflower meadow. Lastly, the Dogs Trust held a dog agility and microchipping session in the Park on 2 October that included advice on responsible dog ownership.

Asset Maintenance

The Superintendent noted that he had met with the City Surveyor to discuss works still outstanding from the 2013/14 Annual Works Programme, including refurbishment of toilet blocks, making good pathways, redecoration of the paddling pool and redecoration to internal railings and wooden structures within the ornamental gardens. Finally, he reported that Virgin Media would be running new cables from Upton Lane to the Superintendent's office using existing underground ducting as part of the IS Division's Wider Area Network upgrade. It was expected that the works would involve minimal disruption and that the new network would be subject to a ten day testing period before the old system was terminated.

The Chairman thanked the Superintendent for his update and noted that the visit of the Lord Mayor's Consort would take place on Friday 6 June 2014. He also informed the Superintendent that he would welcome to opportunity to visit Park staff to express his thanks for their work and effort personally.

6. WEST HAM PARK MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT

The Superintendent of West Ham Park introduced a report of the Director of Open Spaces detailing the progress of staff in meeting management plan objectives.

A Committee Member welcomed the involvement of the Tessa Sanderson Foundation Academy in providing tennis lessons in the Park. He queried the number of hours provided however, noting that it appeared to equate to only three hours a week. In reply the Superintendent noted that the figures were likely to only include paid sessions rather than the total number of sessions, which would include informal use of the courts. He undertook to investigate and report back. Members also noted that poor weather and the fact that many people were only likely to use the courts at the weekend as possible factors in explaining the number of hours recorded.

Finally, the Chairman welcomed the drop in crime and anti-social behaviour recorded within the Park and, on behalf of the Committee, noted the hard work and commitment of staff and volunteers in West Ham Park.

RECEIVED

7. **WEST HAM PARK TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain on the West Ham Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2013.

RECEIVED

8. **GREEN FLAG AWARDS 2013**

The Superintendent of West Ham Park introduced a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Green Flag Awards 2013. He noted that there was no report for West Ham Park as the Green Flag judges had failed to turn up on the date that had been scheduled for inspection. Instead, the Park had been 'mystery shopped' by alternative judges at a later date. The Superintendent did note however that he had been given very positive feedback from the London in Bloom judges.

RESOLVED:

- That the great success achieved by the City of London's Open Spaces in the Green Flag and London in Bloom Awards be noted and reported to the Court of Common Council on 24 October 2013.
- That the members of staff and volunteers across all of the Open Spaces be congratulated on their contribution to the Corporation's success in the awards.

9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
Committee Meeting – June 2014**

The Chairman noted that due to diary pressures it was necessary to amend the date of the June 2014 meeting from 9 June to 2 June at 1345hrs.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:

Item Number(s)
12-15

Paragraph in Schedule 12A
3

12. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2013 be approved as a correct record.

13. **WEST HAM PARK UPDATE**

The Committee received a confidential report of the Chamberlain.

RECEIVED

14. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE SHOULD AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 1.10 pm

Chairman

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