

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 17 February 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 17 February 2014 at 12.15 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Deputy Alex Deane (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Robert Howard
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Graeme Smith
Deputy Michael Welbank
Robert Cazenove
Catherine Bickmore
Richard Gurney
Councillor Bryan Collier MBE
Councillor Joy Laguda MBE
The Rev. Stennett Kirby

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Principal Legal Assistant, Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Roger Adams	- Senior Principal Surveyor, City Solicitor's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent of Parks & Gardens
Patrick Hegarty	- Technical Manager, Open Spaces Department

In Attendance:

George Gillon CC	- Chief Commoner
------------------	------------------

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Justin-Meath Baker.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

Wendy Mead declared a standing interest as a member of The City Bridge Trust Committee.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 25 November 2013 be approved as a correct record, subject to Councillor Joy Laguda being correctly listed as having an MBE.

Matters Arising

West Ham Park Newsletter

In response to a request from a Member, the Town Clerk committed to providing hardcopies of the West Ham Park e-newsletter as and when each edition was published.

4. **SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS**

The Chairman introduced a report of the Town Clerk. Committee members had no comments to make on the report or the appended Scheme of Delegations.

RESOLVED – that

- Subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee of the overall Scheme of Delegation, the delegations relating to the Director of Open Spaces as set out in the appendix to the report be approved;
- The proposed amendment to Standing Orders relating to the declaration of operational property assets which are surplus to requirements, be noted.

5. **SCHEDULE OF VISITS 2014**

The Chairman introduced a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Annual Schedule of Visits 2014. In response to a query from the Chairman, the Superintendent of West Ham Park confirmed that it was expected that the full Mayoral Party would be involved in the Mayoral Visit on Friday 6 June 2014.

RESOLVED – that

- Members agree the Current Position and Proposals set out within the report;
- Members agree the Schedule of Visits 2014 as set out in the appendix.

6. **WEST HAM PARK SPORTS CHARGES 2014-15**

The Superintendent of West Ham Park introduced a report of the Director of Open Spaces on Sports Charges 2014/15.

In response to a query from a member over why there were two separate prices for Cricket, the Superintendent replied that this was due to one price being concessionary, and that the price list would be amended to reflect that.

RESOLVED –

- That members approve the proposed schedule of charges for sports facilities in West Ham Park for the financial year 2014/15.

6.1 Superintendent's Update

The Chairman noted that the customary Superintendent's Update had been omitted from the agenda in error and therefore invited the Superintendent to provide his update as Agenda Item 6a. The Superintendent updated the Committee on the following issues:

Inclement Weather 14-15 February 2014

The recent storm had caused the loss of a eucalyptus tree within the Park. Consideration would be given to an appropriate replacement.

Budget

The West Ham Park budget remained in-line with existing targets. Nevertheless the Nursery was underachieving financially, largely due to a reduction in orders from existing clients and lack of demand arising from the fewer number of events at Guildhall.

Staff

Following interviews conducted on 10 December 2013, a successful candidate had been appointed to the post of West Ham Park Manager and was due to start on 26 February 2014. The successful candidate was joining the City of London Corporation from the London Borough of Southwark. In the meantime an interim manager seconded from the North London Open Spaces Division continued to provide managerial support in West Ham Park.

Works Update

West Ham Park tree stock was being surveyed under the contract between the City of London and the London Borough of Islington and the details arising thereof uploaded onto Arbortrak software for the first time.

Events

The Friends of West Ham Park had staged the *Park in the Dark* event on 5 December 2013 at which 70 persons had attended. 20 families had attended a Birdwatching tour of the Park on 18 January 2014. A stargazing event was scheduled for 27 February 2014 and was fully-booked. It was expected that the event feature in an upcoming issue of the Newham Recorder.

The Superintendent went on to note that the planned Tessa Sanderson Foundation & Academy (TSFA) 10k run and half-marathon had been cancelled and that TSFA planned to instead hold a June fun-day involving sports within the Park.

Asset Maintenance

Works continued to be carried out on assets within the Park as part of the City Surveyor's planned maintenance programme, including playground office roof and the public lavatories.

In response to a question from a member regarding the cancellation of the TSFA 10k and half-marathon, the Superintendent replied that this was due to the TSFA being unable to negotiate the necessary road closures around the Park.

In response to a question from a member over when the interim manager seconded from North London Open Spaces would finish, the Superintendent replied that it was likely they would remain in the Park for a short handover with the incoming West Ham Park Manager. Therefore it was expected that the interim manager would return to their full-time role in North London Open Spaces around mid-March. The Superintendent placed on record his thanks to the interim manager for his support and professionalism over the past few months.

7. PROCUREMENT OF TREE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Superintendent of West Ham Park introduced a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the procurement of a tree maintenance works. He noted that the new contract simplified the processes involved and provided considerable efficiency savings.

In response to a question from a member, the Superintendent confirmed that the rates included over the four years of the contract would be subject to a small uplift.

In response to concerns expressed by a member that works carried out by the arboricultural contractor may not be sensitive to the aesthetics of the Park, the Superintendent confirmed that the contractor would only be carrying out works to a specification set by the City of London.

In response to a question from a member – prompted by the loss of the eucalyptus tree – over whether low rootage of trees presented an issue within the Park, the Superintendent confirmed that eucalyptus tree were particularly susceptible to inclement weather due to their low roots and the fact that they retained a full canopy over winter. Nevertheless he expressed confidence that low rootage was not a problem amongst wider West Ham Park tree stock.

RECEIVED

8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Appreciation to Richard Gentry

The Committee placed on record its thanks to Richard Gentry for his hardwork as part-time interim manager at West Ham Park. The Committee noted that he had performed the role in addition to his full-time duties as Queen's Park Manager and Superintendent of the Hampstead Heath Constabulary.

Ms Stella Currie

The Committee noted with regret the passing of the late Ms Stella Currie, and placed on record its thanks for her contribution to the City of London's Open Spaces as past Chairman of the Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

Item(s)	Paragraph in Schedule 12A
11-14	3

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2013 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

12. **WEST HAM PARK NURSERY SURPLUS ACCOUNT**

The Committee discussed the issue of the West Ham Park Nursery Surplus Account.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 1.02 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Alistair MacLellan
alistair.maclellan@cityoflondon.gov.uk