

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 2 June 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 2 June 2014 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Deputy Alex Deane (Deputy Chairman)
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Deputy Michael Welbank
Robert Cazenove
Councillor Bryan Collier MBE
The Rev. Stennett Kirby

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	Director, Open Spaces
Alison Elam	Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Martin Rodman	Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Edward Wood	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Roger Adams	City Surveyor's Department
Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	Director, Open Spaces
Alison Elam	Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Deputy Robert Howard.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

4. COURT ORDER

The Order of the Court of Common Council was received by the Committee.

5. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29. The Town Clerk read out a list of Member's eligible to stand and Alderman Ian Luder, being the only Member to express his willingness to serve, was declared the duly elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30. The Town Clerk read out a list of Member's eligible to stand and Deputy Alex Deane, being the only Member to express his willingness to serve, was declared the duly elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

7. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received the following update from the Superintendent:

Budget – spending was in line with the budget profile across all areas for this time of year. The Nursery reserve fund had been adjusted to take account of last financial year's budget deficit.

Staff – The West Ham Park Manager returned to work last Friday as part of a phased return. A small number of temporary staff were working in the gardens and nursery to help support the teams at this busy time of year, but these have been accounted for within budget.

Grounds maintenance – Final preparations were taking place for the Lord Mayor's visit on Friday. Some of the larger, structural planting was in place for the winter stem garden but this would not be complete until phase 2 of planting this coming winter. The gardening team were also busy planting out the seasonal bedding within the ornamental gardens.

The nursery team were focussed entirely on providing bedding to all clients in a timely manner. A senior manager from The Royal Parks visited in May to check the quality of the product prior to dispatch. This was a very positive meeting.

Community & Events

The Gardening club resumed for the summer and launched with a public planting day at the beginning May which was reported in the Newham Recorder. These sessions would now continue in the Jubilee Food Garden throughout the summer. A volunteer day took place in May with twenty-two 6th formers from a local school carrying out maintenance to the meadow areas.

ActiveNewham had organised a series of healthy activities to take place daily over the next 2 months, as part of the Park Lives initiative sponsored by a large drinks manufacturer.

Green Flag judges' visit was scheduled for next Wednesday 11 June, and London in Bloom for 9 July.

Property

The main power cable to the park office was severed by a contractor working on site, resulting in a complete loss of power for nearly 2 days. The Superintendent was

investigating why this occurred, especially given that a scan for underground services took place before commencing work.

City Surveyor's contractors had been carefully replacing Oak timbers to the pergola in the ornamental gardens. Tiling, cladding and paving around the paddling pool has all been replaced as part of the scheduled repair and maintenance programme.

The Committee Members thanked the Superintendent and his staff for all of their work.

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

There were no questions.

9. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

10. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION: 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.

11. GW2 PROJECT PROPOSAL; WEST HAM PARK REFRESHMENT FACILITIES

Members received the report of the Director of Open Spaces.

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

There were no questions.

13. ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 2.05 pm

Chairman