

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 13 October 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 13 October 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
Deputy Michael Welbank
Justin Meath-Baker
Robert Cazenove
Richard Gurney
Councillor Bryan Collier MBE
Councillor Joy Laguda MBE
The Rev. Stennett Kirby

Officers:

Susan Attard	Deputy Town Clerk
Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Louisa Allen	Open Spaces Department
Martin Hartup	Open Spaces Department
Jo Hurst	Open Spaces Department
Alison Elam	Chamberlain's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Graeme Smith and Catherine Bickmore.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Members received the following update from the Superintendent:

Budget – spending in line with budget profile for the first half of the year, except at the Nursery under floral income code. It was unlikely that the nursery

would meet its target in this area unless a further state function or similar takes place before the end of the financial year. Under the terms of the contract with The Royal Parks, an uplift of 2.8% had been applied to the price of bedding plants from this summer, meaning that the current deliveries will be at the new contract prices. The Nursery had just undergone an internal audit looking at procurement and invoicing, with a very positive outcome.

Staff – the part-time services support officer providing financial support for the team had resigned. The response to the recruitment process had been positive with 44 applications received, from which 7 had been shortlisted for interview. Following a final probationary period meeting last week, unfortunately we were not able to confirm the permanent appointment of the Park Manager. The Superintendent was currently seeking some temporary support for this post, whilst undertaking the recruitment process, subject to any appeal.

Works update – spring bedding plants were being delivered across London and were being planted in the ornamental gardens at West Ham. A survey of the trees in the park had been completed by Tree Officers from LB Islington under the framework agreement, and all works had been stored on our Arbortrack database. The price of proposed works is, as anticipated, quite high this first inspection, but works had been prioritised into urgent and non-urgent and we are spreading them over 2 financial years. Going forward, work would be substantially cheaper in future years.

Community & Events

The Gardening club had continued in the Jubilee Food Garden with weekly sessions throughout the summer and was now coming to an end for the winter season. Bumper crops including potatoes, tomatoes, courgettes, beans, beetroot and carrots had been shared amongst the regular volunteers. Sessions would start up again next March/April 2015 when Officers would begin preparing the beds for sowing.

The Friends of West Ham Park successfully completed 86 x 60second surveys with members of the public on Saturday 16th August, helping Officers to keep track of the views and comments of Park visitors.

Two bat walks led by the Friends were held in the park in August and September which were very well attended with 69 attendees in August and 60 in September.

The Friends held their AGM in September; Nicky Brown stepped down as Chairman following 3 very successful years leading on a variety of events. Ron Innell was elected as new Chairman with Roger Jones as Deputy Chairman.

65 young people (16-17 years old) from an organisation called the Challenge Network, volunteered in the Park on Sunday 28th September, helping to rake cuttings from the wildflower meadows which had been mowed a few weeks previously. The young people cleared nearly 4000m² of meadow cuttings.

Awards and visits - The Green Flag and heritage awards were both retained this year. The park received a Gold Award in the large parks category of London in Bloom

APPGHG visit postponed from earlier in the year has been re-scheduled for 28th October. MPs from both houses would visit the park before proceeding onto the Cemetery & Crematorium.

Property – the City Surveyor was currently seeking prices for the refurbishment of a further 6 tennis courts this winter as part of the AWP. A consultant had been appointed to review the viability of the nursery business. This was something that was not only good business practice every few years but also formed part of the service based review and would help inform the new nursery business plan.

The Superintendent met with officers from London Borough of Newham and the head teacher of Park Primary school regarding the creation of another entrance to the Park immediately opposite the school on Ham Park Road. As the proposed entrance was only 100m from Linden Gate the school would normally have been discouraged to pursue this further however this formed part of LBN's sustainable transportation strategy seeking to encourage healthy travel to school and of course to reduce potential clash between pedestrians and vehicles. This would therefore be the subject of a future report to your committee, timing dependent on information from LBN and Park Primary. If this was to be considered further the project would need to be revenue neutral for its whole life.

5. **TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2013/14**
Members noted that the Trustee's Annual Report and Financial Statements were presented for information.
6. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.**
There was no urgent business.
8. **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.
9. **CAFÉ FEASIBILITY STUDY**
The Committee considered the joint report of the City Surveyor and the Director of Open Spaces.

10. **SERVICE BASED REVIEW PROPOSALS**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1.15 pm

Chairman

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