

OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS

Monday, 12 October 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 12 October 2015 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Graeme Smith (Deputy Chairman)
Alderman Gordon Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Virginia Rounding (Ex-Officio Member)
Jeremy Simons
Michael Welbank
Verderer Peter Adams (Ex-Officio Member)
Catherine Bickmore (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Fern Aldous	- Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Esther Sumner	- Open Spaces Business Manager
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent of Parks & Gardens
Sam Cook	- Remembrancer's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller's and City Solicitor's
Victor Callister	- Department of the Built Environment
Alison Elam	- Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from George Abrahams, John Beyer, Deputy Alex Deane, and Deputy Robert Howard.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:

City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill

Members noted that the Open Spaces Bill consultation was coming to an end and the report regarding the promotion of the Bill would be considered by the Court of Common Council on 15th October 2015. Officers said that the

consultation meetings with local groups had been very useful. The Bill would be deposited in Parliament on 27th November 2015.

4. ST MARY-AT-HILL CHURCHYARD GATEWAY 4

The Committee received a report from the Director of the Built Environment updating them on the St Mary-At-Hill Churchyard Gateway 4 project.

Members noted that St Mary-At-Hill church was a grade I listed building that was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren and Robert Hooke in 1670-74. The churchyard represented one of the few open spaces in the Fenchurch & Monument area, but it was currently underutilised as it is in a state of disrepair with low quality paving, poor access and limited planting. In addition to the poor design quality, surveys have revealed below ground structures and inadequate drainage causing potential damage to the church and churchyard wall.

In response to a query from Members, Officers said that the Fenchurch and Monument Area Enhancement Strategy identified St Mary-At-Hill Churchyard as a key opportunity to increase access to, and enhanced the quality of the churchyard for the increasing numbers of workers, residents and visitors to the area. To achieve this, the total available funding of £100,000 was allocated to the scheme from the Section 106 Agreement related to the redevelopment of 20 Fenchurch Street.

In order to address all of the current problems associated with the space, the Working Party developed a series of objectives which were approved at Gateway 3 in April 2015. The proposed concept design seeks to address these objectives by delivering new ramped and stepped access, new tree planting and soft landscaping, sustainable drainage, new seating, lighting and re-use of heritage assets.

Members were informed that there were still a number of uncertainties surrounding the delivery of this project, principally relating to archaeology, drainage and funding.

Resolved – that Members:

- Authorised the progression of the project and the release of funds, as set out in Section 17 of this report;
- Authorised officers to arrange additional funding as per the agreed funding strategy to secure the delivery of all project objectives;
- Authorised officers to develop a formal agreement to carry out the works on the privately owned churchyard and develop a long term maintenance agreement;
- Authorised officers to pursue all necessary Planning and Faculty permissions;
- Authorised the use of interest accrued on the £100,000 Section 106 Agreement.

5. OPEN SPACES LEARNING PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces informing them of the new open spaces learning framework and programme had been

designed to address a lack of coordination and focus in the current learning provision. Members noted that Officers would investigate the use of an evaluation framework to determine the success of the programme.

Received.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report providing an update on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since July 2015. Members were informed that the Christmas Tree Lighting Event would take place on 8th December at 4pm with the Lord Mayor in attendance. The reception following the ceremony would take place in St Paul's Cathedral Choir School Hall, Bread Street.

Received.

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

There were no questions.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

There was no urgent business.

9. **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.

10. **FINSBURY CIRCUS REINSTATEMENT UPDATE**

The committee received an update by the superintendent of Parks and Gardens on the Finsbury Circus reinstatement project.

11. **ISSUE REPORT: SKATE BOARDING**

The committee received a report discussing issues surrounding skateboarding activities in St Paul's Churchyard.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

14. **SERVICE BASED REVIEW UPDATE**

The Committee received the confidential report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Service Based Review.

The meeting ended at 3.15 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra
natasha.dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk