

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 9 December 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 9 December 2019 at 12.15 pm

Present

Members:

Graeme Doshi-Smith (Deputy Chairman)
Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Catherine Bickmore
Robert Cazenove
Caroline Haines
Alderman Ian Luder
Barbara Newman
Justin Meath-Baker
Jeremy Simons
Deputy John Tomlinson
Cllr James Asser

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, Parks and Gardens
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces, Business Manager
Lucy Anne Murphy	- West Ham Park Manager, Open Spaces Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Wendy Mead, Rev'd Canon Alex Summers and Richard Gurney.

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

There were no declarations received.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee on 14 October 2019.

Further to its mention within the public minutes of the previous meeting a member of the Committee questioned if there was a required notice period by which questions from the public were required to be received. The Chairman clarified that there was no provision in the Standing Orders of the Court of

Common Council for questions from members of the public in attendance to be considered by the Committee and that the lack of prior notice of the question was one of the reasons why the Chairman had not deemed it not appropriate to consider the question from the public.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee held on 14 October 2019 be approved as an accurate record.

4. PARK MANAGER'S UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which provided an update on the management and operational activities at West Ham Park since October 2019. The Chairman commended the Park Manager for her work on events held within West Ham Park.

A member of the Committee requested further information on the next steps for the Nursey Project. The Director of Open Spaces explained that the Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department had written to the Charity Commission regarding the proposed scheme. In addition, it was explained that, dependent on the response from the Charity Commission, the next stage for the Project would be a public consultation and a further committee report in July of 2020. Replying to a query from a Member the Director of Open Spaces explained that the Nursey Site was not within the public park and therefore was not in its totality parkland. The Chairman noted that the Nursey project report had been agreed by the Projects Sub-Committee and the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

5. WEST HAM PARK FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2020-21

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the West Ham Park Fees and Charges review 2020-21. The report summarised sports activity in the Park throughout 2019 and outlined the proposed fees and charges for sports facilities to be provided at West Ham Park in 2020/21.

Replying to a Member's comment the Director of Open Spaces explained that the population local to the park were comparably younger and used the park in a higher number than the OAP's. The Chairman commented that he was content to be guided by Officers on managerial matters such as the setting of fees and charges.

A Member informed the Committee of the new leisure strategy that the London Borough of Newham was currently developing. The Chairman commented that every effort should be made to encourage an increase in physical activity in the Park noting the high levels of obesity present in the Borough.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. That the proposed schedule of charges for sports facilities in West Ham Park for the 2020/21 financial year be approved; and

- II. Authority be delegated to the Superintendent to finalise details of the Tennis Annual Membership package with Newham Council prior to the start of the tennis season.

6. **TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain on the Trustee's Annual Report and Finance Statement.

The Chairman highlighted the funding from the City of London grant to the management of the Park and as a result observed that the only viable option for the Nursery included combined usage due to the large increase in capital expenditure for the alternative option. A member of the Committee stated that the provision of housing within Newham was not the concern of the West Ham Park Committee. Further to this a Member stated that Officers should make clear in their communication with the Charity Commission that not all Members of the West Ham Park Committee agreed with the Nursey Project combined usage option and that only the summary of the consultant's report had been considered by the Committee. A Member replied that it was standard practice within the City of London Corporation that Officer's reports include their summary and recommendations with background reports available on request.

It was commented by a member of the Committee that the Nursey being in a derelict condition should be listed as a risk for the management of West Ham Park and should be included in the communication to the Charity Commission.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **2019/20 BUSINESS PLAN PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Departmental Business Plan 2019/20 Six-month performance update: April to Sept 2019. The report provided Members with an update on progress and performance against the 2019/20 Business Plan by the services which report to the various Open Spaces Committees.

Replying to a query from a member of the Committee the Director of Open Spaces explained that any mitigation required in the locality of West Ham Park would be considered by the London Borough of Newman as the relevant local authority.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

A Member of the Committee commented on the Chairman's statement on the Nursery Project made to the Newham Recorder which he did not feel was accurate and noted that the provision of housing in the Borough of Newman was not the concern of the West Ham Park Committee. In addition, it was requested that future statements are circulated to the Committee for information.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was no urgent business considered in the public session.

10. **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 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No. No.	Paragraph
11	3

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held on 14 October 2019.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee on 14 October 2019 be approved as an accurate record.

12. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
The Committee considered one question in the non-public session.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was no urgent business in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 1.30 pm

Chairman

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