

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Thursday, 16 July 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at remotely on
Thursday, 16 July 2020 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

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

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Antoinette Duhaney	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Media Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Gerry Kiefer	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Martin Falder	- Project Officer, Open Spaces Department
Lucy Stowell-Smith	- West Ham Park Manager, Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

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

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 West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 3rd of February 2020.

RESOLVED- That public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 3rd of February 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk on the West Ham Park Committee's Terms of Reference. The Town Clerk explained that as part of the post-implementation review of the changes made to the City Corporation's governance arrangements in 2011 Committees are required to review their terms of reference annually. It was explained that two changes to the Committee's Terms of Reference were recommended; updating the details of London Borough of Newham representatives and removing the reference to 'the management of a Nursery' to reflect the fact that the nursery is no longer in operation.

A member of the Committee expressed concern regarding the removal of the reference to the management of a Nursery and stated that the alternative wording 'management of a disused Nursey' should be considered. The Chairman replied that the Committee's Terms of Reference needed to accurately reflect the responsibilities of the Committee therefore, as there was not an operational nurse in West Ham Park, the change was appropriate. The Deputy Chairman commented that it was important to have clarity in the Committee's Terms of Reference which the replacement of the existing text with wording on the management of a former nurse would not achieve. In addition, a Member observed that the Terms of Reference did not individually list all assets under the Committee's responsibility and therefore specifying the management of a disused Nursey site was not required.

A Member clarified that the proposed change would not remove the former Nursey land from the Committee's responsibility. Replying to this a Member observed that the Terms of Reference made clear that the West Ham Park Committee had continued responsibility for the totality of the Park, including the former Nursey site. A member of the Committee expressed that they were still concerned that the removal of the reference to 'the management of a Nursery' would represent a removal of this land from the Committee's responsibility. The West Ham Park Committee proceeded to vote on the recommendation to remove the 'the management of a Nursery' to reflect the fact that the nursery is no longer in operation. Six Committee members voted in favour and three Committee members against the recommendation. Accordingly, the recommendation was agreed.

Replying to a query from member of the Committee the Town Clerk clarified that, as the Committee had not requested any change to the frequency of meetings, the West Ham Park Committee would continue to meet on the same frequency.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The reference to 'the management of a Nursery' be removed from the West Ham Park Committee's Terms of Reference to reflect that the nursery is no longer in operation and that the approval of the Policy and

Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council be sought accordingly; and

- II. That any further changes required in the lead up to the Court's appointment of Committees be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman; and
- III. That Members approved no change is required to the frequency of the Committee's meetings.

5. OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT, CITY GARDENS AND WEST HAM PARK RISK MANAGEMENT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Open Spaces Department, City Gardens and West Ham Park Risk Management. The Director of Open Spaces introduced the report and invited questions from the Committee.

Replying to a query from a Member of the Committee regarding the West Ham Park Nursery Project, the Director of Open Spaces explained that the Comptroller and City Solicitor wrote to Charity Commission to confirm particular details of the 1874 West Ham Park Conveyance with regard to the progression of works at the former Nursery site and would be working on responses to the questions received from the Charity Commission. In addition it was noted that the Comptroller and City Solicitor had, following the Charity Commission's recommendation, obtained outside counsel views on specific details of the 1874 West Ham Park Conveyance and 1981 Charity Scheme with a report expected by the end of the week of the 13th of July. The Chairman requested that a report on this matter be received by the Committee at its meeting October.

The Committee discussed the impact of the COVID19 pandemic on the management of West Ham Park noting particularly the context of the London Borough of Newham as one of the boroughs worst affected by the pandemic. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the significant impact of COVID19 had been reflected in its classification as a red risk on the Risk Register. The Committee recorded its thanks to all staff and volunteers involved in the management of West Ham Park for providing a vital service to people of the London Borough of Newham in a deeply challenging time. The Chairman commented that options for an event to appropriately recognise this contribution would be explored. The Director of Open Spaces thanked the Committee and noted that the West Ham Park Management team would now be exploring options for the reopening of facilities in the Park.

Replying to Member's question regarding staff welfare, the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that there had been no recorded physical attacks on staff by members of the public but noted that there had been significant levels of verbal abuse received particularly when enforcing social distancing rules.

RESOLVED- That the West Ham Park elements of the City Gardens and West Ham Park risk register as outlined in this report and in Appendix 3 be approved.

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

There were no questions received in the public session.

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

There were no urgent items considered in the public session.

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 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.

9

Paragraph

3

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 3rd of February 2020.

RESOLVED- That non-public minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 3rd of February 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

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

There were no questions received in the non-public session.

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

There was one item of urgent business received in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 11.38 am

Chairman

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