

OPEN SPACES, CITY GARDENS AND WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE

6 February 2012

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES, CITY GARDENS AND WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE HELD AT GUILDHALL, EC2 ON MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2012 AT 11:30am.

Present

Alderman Robert Hall (Chairman)
Dr Peter Hardwick (Deputy
Chairman)
Alderman Ian Luder
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Deputy Michael Welbank

For West Ham Park Business

Justin Meath-Baker
Catherine Bickmore
Robert Cazenoe
Richard Gurney
Councillor Joy Laguda

Observers in attendance

Verderer Peter Adams
Tony Ghilchik

Officers:

Jacky Compton	- Town Clerk's Department
Esther Sumner	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Denis Whelton	- Open Spaces Department
Martin Rodman	- Acting Superintendent of West Ham Park and City Gardens
Geraldine King	- West Ham Park Manager
Lucy Stowell-Smith	- Acting Manager, City Gardens
Patrick Hegarty	- Open Spaces Department
Roger Adams	- City Surveyors
Jon Aaverns	- Department of Markets and Consumer Protection

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Stella Currie, Alexander Deane, Alderman Gordon Haines, Sheriff Wendy Mead, Deputy Janet Owen and The Reverend Stennett Kirby.

The Chairman stated that he would write to Deputy Stella Currie on behalf of the Committee wishing her well after her recent operation.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THIS MEETING

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 5 December 2011 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Members Attendance – The observer for another Committee enquired as to whether it was possible for their names to be appended to the list of Members Present. The Chairman stated that this was not a problem and would ensure that it was added to the minutes for this meeting.

Schedule of Visits for 2012 – A Member, who had given his apologies at the last meeting, enquired as to why the date of the Epping Forest visit in November 2012 had changed from that previously advertised. The Chairman stated that this was because of the Lord Mayor's Show taking place on the same day.

Kennell Club – The Director stated that the City of London Corporation had been offered the Kennell Club Dog Local Authority Award 2012. She stated that unfortunately the Chairman was unable to attend the event but that the Superintendent of City Commons would attend in the Chairman's place.

Item 17 was considered at this point in the meeting.

17. GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk summarising the arrangements proposed, as a result of previous discussions. The Chairman added that the names of Observers would be added to the listing of Members on the Summons to the meeting.

A Member stated that, as well as having West Ham Park Business on the agenda, would it not be possible to have an item relating to Open Spaces Business on the agenda.

RECEIVED.

The Committee then considered Item 4.

WEST HAM PARK – PART A

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The West Ham Park Manager provided an update to the Committee which included:-

Orchard Planting – The West Ham Park Manager stated that after receiving funding from City Bridge Trust, the planting of the Orchard would take place on Saturday 11 February 2012 between 12noon and 1pm.

Bore Hole – Members were informed that this was being installed shortly.

Friends and Gurney Day – The West Ham Park Manager stated that this year would mark the 200th Anniversary of the Gurney Family's residence at West Ham Park as well as the 300th Anniversary of the Dr Fothergill's Family residence. She stated that there would be a special event being held on 23 June 2012 at the Park and everyone was welcome to attend.

Lord Mayor's Visit – Members were informed that this would take place on Friday 15 June 2012.

Deed of Variation – The Superintendent stated that this was now complete after successful negotiations. This meant that the Nursery could now supply plants to outside bodies. The Superintendent confirmed that a contract had been signed with the Royal Parks.

5. WEST HAM PARK DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent setting out a summary of the draft West Ham Park Management Plan 2012-2017 for Member's consideration.

The Superintendent advised Members that the Plan would be circulated more widely in February, with staff consultation expected in March and that he would then report back to the Committee in April with the final Plan. A number of helpful comments were made by Members on aspects of the draft Plan, which were noted.

RESOLVED: That –

- i) Members approve the draft West Ham Park Management Plan (text only) for proposed consultation set out in the timetable in paragraph eight and that the plan be placed on the City of London website as a living draft until 25 March 2012; and
- ii) the outcome of consultation and final draft is reported to the April meeting for Committee approval.

6. SPORTS CHARGES FOR WEST HAM PARK 2012/13

The Committee considered a report of the Superintendent reviewing the charges for the sports facilities that are provided at West Ham Park and seeking approval for the proposed charges for 2012/13.

The Superintendent advised the Committee that unfortunately there was a page missing from the original report. The Town Clerk stated that he would recirculate, via email, the report to the Members after the meeting.

A Member questioned whether the current arrangement for agreeing charges as helpful to sports clubs and asked whether it would be better to agree charges a year in advance. The Director of Open Spaces reminded Members that sports charges were also set for other Open Space Committees and that she would consult with the Superintendents and Chamberlain about the advantages and disadvantages of changing arrangements for the future and would report back to a subsequent meeting.

RESOLVED: That the proposed changes for sports facilities in West Ham Park for 2012/13 be approved.

OPEN SPACES – PART B

7. QUARTER BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces relative to the third quarter review of the Plan and progress on the key performance indicators and a summary of financial performance.

RESOLVED: That Members note the progress made in implementing the Business Plan and receive the report.

8. OPEN SPACES HEALTH AND SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces relative to the annual audit of Health and Safety (H&S) in the Open Spaces Department.

A Member enquired as to whether it would be possible to cover trends on an annual basis in future reports. The Director stated that this would be possible and agreed that it would be included in a future Annual Report.

RECEIVED.

Item 10 was considered at this point in the meeting.

10. CONSOLIDATED REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS – 2011/12 AND 2012/13

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces updating the Committee on the latest approved revenue budget for 2011/12 and the proposed revenue budget for 2012/13.

RESOLVED: That the Members note the latest approved revenue and capital budgets for 2011/12 and the provisional revenue and capital budgets for 2012/13 as approved by the relevant Open Spaces Service Committees.

11. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The Director of Open Spaces gave a presentation to the Committee on the Management of Risk across the Open Spaces.

The Director stated that some changes to RIDDOR would be coming into force from 6 April 2012, increasing the reporting period from 3 to 7 days.

She demonstrated that the number of incidents across Open Space sites had reduced over the last 3 years and also stated that for sickness levels, although there had been an increase in 2011, close management was reducing levels by the last quarter.

Members agreed that it would be helpful to include a KPI on incident reporting in the new Business Plan that would be presented to this Committee.

CITY GARDENS – PART C

Item 13 was considered at this point in the meeting.

13. NOISE STRATEGY REPORT

The Committee received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection regarding the City of London draft Noise Management Strategy for 2012 to 2016.

The Director stated that the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee had approve the report at their recent meeting.

RECEIVED.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent was heard on the following:

Management Plan – The Superintendent stated that consultation on the Plan would close on 24 February and that it had be circulated to Libraries and Estate Offices.

Big Garden Bird Watch – This had been carried out on 28 and 29 January and that a reduced number of birds had been seen due to weather conditions.

Winter Works – Members were informed that Cheapside Tree planting had now been completed. They were also advised that St Pancras Church Yard was currently being renovated.

Occupy London – The Superintendent stated that they had now moved into an old school behind Bunhill Fields. He stated that extra security and staff were on site and that there had currently been no problems.

Waterproofing on Barbican – The Superintendent advised that to allow further investigation works to take place, the tiles and planting will be removed in March. He also stated that the City Gardens team will be lifting and replanting selected plants in Thomas More to improve the garden for residents.

Staff – The Superintendent stated that this would be Lucy's last meeting as she was leaving the City Gardens Department to go and work within the Hampstead Heath Department. He wished her well for the future.

Item 9 was considered at this point in the meeting.

9. QUEEN ELIZABETH II FIELDS CHALLENGE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces relative to dedicating Tower Hill Garden and the new garden at the former St Paul's Coach Park, which it is anticipated will be completed at the end of March 2012, as Queen Elizabeth II Fields through Deeds of Dedication registered with the Land Registry. The Director advised that the naming of the new garden was a matter for consultation involving a wide range of parties and she requested that due to time involved agreement to the final naming should be delegated to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED: That Members –

- i) approve the dedication of Tower Hill Garden and the garden under construction at St Paul's Coach Park as Queen Elizabeth II Fields; and
- ii) authorise the Comptroller and City Solicitor to enter into Deeds of Dedication for the Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge with the National Playing Fields Association, operating as Fields in Trust.

14. CROSSRAIL

The Superintendent updated the Members relating to Crossrail. The Superintendent stated that he had spoken to Crossrail and they had promised to pay for any refurbishment works that needed to be undertaken.

The Chairman enquired as to whether it was possible to include a visit to the site once all the work had been undertaken. The Superintendent stated he would look into this but couldn't see it being a problem.

15. SEETHING LANE GARDEN EC3 – HOTEL DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor relative to a potential hotel development at Seething Lane Garden.

RESOLVED: That –

- i) Members note the proposed deed transaction between the City and Bullet Investments Limited which is to be the subject of a separate report for the approval of the Property Investment Board to the proposals to provide for construction of basement and superstructure accommodation on Seething Lane Garden and the taking of a co-terminus lease of the service road all without cost to the City;
- ii) approval is granted to deal with any necessary 3rd party documentation in order to achieve improvements to Trinity Square Garden and St Olaves Church Garden with authority delegated to the Comptroller and City Solicitor in conjunction with the Director of Open Spaces to settle terms without cost to the City and to undertake any necessary documentation; and
- iii) the final design and layout of the reinstated Seething Lane Garden when available is to be subject to the Committee's approval prior to implementation.

16. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

17. URGENT ITEMS

This item was considered earlier in the meeting.

18. 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 as follows:-

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraphs in Schedule 12A</u>
19	3
20 & 21	3

**SUMMARY OF MATTERS CONSIDERED WHILST
THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED**

19. NON PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2011 were approved as a correct record.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 1.25pm

CHAIRMAN

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