

**WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, 10 December 2018**

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms  
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 10 December 2018 at 12.15 pm,  
on the rising of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee.

**Members:**

Graeme Smith (Chairman)  
Oliver Sells QC (Deputy Chairman)  
Catherine Bickmore  
Robert Cazenove  
Alderman Ian Luder  
Wendy Mead  
Justin Meath-Baker  
Richard Gurney  
Jeremy Simons

**Officers:**

Alistair MacLellan	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Chamberlain's Department
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent of Parks and Gardens
Lucy-Anne Murphy	- West Ham Park Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Caroline Haines, Barbara Newman, Cllr Rachel Tripp and Deputy John Tomlinson.

In response to a request from the Chairman, the Town Clerk agreed to establish when the second representative of the London Borough of Newham, and the representative appointed by the incumbent or priest of the benefice of West Ham, would both likely be appointed to the Committee.

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

There were no declarations.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

**4. BREXIT UPDATE**

The Director of Open Spaces was heard regarding implications of Brexit for the Directorate of Open Spaces and the following points were made.

- The Director of Open Spaces noted that the Open Spaces Department was currently in receipt of £300,000 of EU grant funding for its natural land, primarily that used to graze cattle i.e. Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches. The impact of Brexit on this funding would be mitigated via the

Agriculture Bill 2017-19 currently before Parliament, although it was likely that the City's continuing eligibility for grant funding would be subject to negotiation.

- The Director of Open Spaces added that Open Spaces staff who were EU nationals would have their right to work in the UK affected by Brexit and that he was working with the Human Resources Directorate to mitigate this.

**RESOLVED**, that the update be noted.

## 5. **PARK MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Members considered an update report of the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens on behalf of the West Ham Park Manager and the following points were made.

### **Playground Refurbishment Project**

- The West Ham Park Manager outlined options for the repair and/or refurbishment of the Playground within the Park. She noted that options included a simple repair of existing play items; a refurbishment of play items within the existing footprint of the playground; or an extension of the existing playground, which following public consultation over Summer 2018 had emerged as the preferred option.
- In response to a question the West Ham Park Manager confirmed that the preferred water play option following consultation was one that included water tables and hand pumps.
- In response to a question regarding project funding, the West Ham Park Manager noted that this issue would be dealt with by a Gateway 3/4 project report in February 2019.
- In response to a question regarding the sustainability of a water play area, the West Ham Park Manager replied that there was scope to capture any used water, but this would involve the installation of an underground water tank which would be expensive.
- In response to a question, the West Ham Park Manager replied that any potential synergies between the playground project and the Nursery would be examined in the forthcoming playground refurbishment project report.

### **Asset Review**

- The West Ham Park Manager noted that the toilet block would be refurbished to improve baby changing facilities and to ensure the block was in line with safeguarding guidance.

## **South Meadow Re-Landscaping**

- The West Ham Park Manager noted that the Park had been successful in securing a GLA grant towards the re-landscaping of South Meadow. The works would be part-delivered by Park volunteers, and the plans for the meadow were in line with Alexander Mackenzie's original 1874 plans for the Park.

## **Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events**

- The West Ham Park Manager noted that Friends of the Park would be assisting with maintenance of the wildlife garden during January 2019.
- In response to a question, the West Ham Park Manager noted that recruitment for a Wild East project officer would not be undertaken at present.
- In response to a question, the West Ham Park Manager noted that feedback arising from the "Bringing Communities Together" event 2018 would be provided in the group's proposal for 2019.
- The Chairman placed on record his appreciation, on behalf of the Committee, for all the hard work and dedication of the Friends of West Ham Park.

## **Further Updates**

- The West Ham Park Manager noted that the Park had been successful in retaining its Green Flag status.
- The West Ham Park Manager reported that the Park had been closed for a period during September 2018 in support of the Police response to the alleged rape of a person near the Park entrance.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be received.

## **6. WEST HAM PARK SPORTS FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW 2019-20**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the West Ham Park Sports Fees and Charges Review 2019-20, and the following points were made.

- The West Ham Park Manager noted that Newham had recently refurbished its tennis courts at Stratford, which had impacted on the usage of Park tennis courts.
- The West Ham Park Manager noted that the proposals before Members included charge for household use of facilities, and that charges for football had been kept competitive to encourage greater use of the Park facilities.

- In response to a question, the West Ham Park Manager agreed to review whether Cricket nets could be made available by the hour.
- In response to a comment, the West Ham Park Manager agreed to review how Park staff could ensure individuals using an annual membership were the same individual who had purchased that membership.
- In response to a question, the West Ham Park Manager noted that the Park's football pitches were rotated to ensure they were not damaged through overuse. The pitches tended to be used by non-league sides, with league sides using Wanstead.

**RESOLVED**, that subject to the comments made by Members, the proposed schedule of charges for sports facilities in West Ham Park for the 2019/20 financial year be approved.

#### 7. **REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2018/19 & 2019/20**

Members considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces regarding Revenue and Capital Budgets 2018/19 & 2019/20 and the following points were made.

- In response to a question, the Director of Open Spaces agreed to bring a report on Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) to the February 2019 meeting. In the meantime, he noted that the City had spent just under £100,000 on combating OPM, the growth of which had been exponential. The City was focusing on treating OPM in areas of particular risk to public health e.g. car parks, paths, and cafes.
- In response to a question, the Director of Open Spaces clarified that the risk to public health from OPM was due to the potential for the caterpillar hairs to cause rashes/and or irritation to the airways. It was possible to defoliate an affected tree on three occasions without risking the tree, but veteran trees were more vulnerable to treatment.

**RESOLVED**, that Members,

- Confirm that the provisional 2019/20 revenue budget reflects the Committee's objectives and approve the budget for submission to the Finance Committee;
- Authorise the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Director of Open Spaces, to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, departmental reorganisations and other reviews, and changes to the Additional Works Programme. Any changes over £50,000 would be reported to Committee.
- delegate to the Chamberlain any minor budget changes for 2018/19 and 2019/20 as a result of the completion of the asset verification exercise.

- approve the draft Capital and Supplementary Revenue budget.

8. **DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2018/19 - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Departmental Business Plan 2018/19 – Six Month Performance Update and the following points were made.

- In response to a comment, the Superintendent of Parks and Gardens noted that no decision had been made regarding the future of the Nursery site, in particular in relation to any potential for housing. Should any such decision be required, it would have to be made by the Committee.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be received, and the progress made against the 2018/19 Business Plan objectives, projects, and performance indicators be noted.

9. **WEST HAM PARK TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

Members considered a report of the Chamberlain regarding the West Ham Park Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2018.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be received.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

12. **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 they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

14. **NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX - PARK MANAGER'S UPDATE**

Members considered the non-public appendix to the Park Manager's Update.

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

There were no non-public questions.

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

There was one item of urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 1.23 pm**

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Chairman

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