

## WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE Monday, 21 July 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms  
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 21 July 2014 at 12.15 pm

### Present

#### Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)  
Deputy Alex Deane (Deputy Chairman)  
Wendy Mead  
Barbara Newman  
Jeremy Simons  
Deputy Michael Welbank  
Justin Meath-Baker  
Robert Cazenove  
Richard Gurney  
Councillor Joy Laguda MBE  
Graeme Smith

#### Officers:

Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Office
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Rosie Thornton	West Ham Park Manager
Alison Elam	Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Deputy Howard, Cllr Bryan Collier, Catherine Bickmore and Revd. Stennett Kirby

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

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. MINUTES

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

#### 4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received the following update from the Superintendent of West Ham Park:

**Budget** – spending was in line with budget profile for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.

**Staff** - A temporary member of staff had started work in the Nursery replacing a fulltime contract. A temporary Keeper- Gardener had also been employed to assist with the patrol of the ornamental gardens on busy weekends and to undertake some basic gardening duties. This was accounted for within the budgets.

**Works update** –The summer bedding was now all in place with a changed bedding scheme for the walled garden which was now 30% herbaceous perennials this would be infilled with spring bulbs (Crocus and Daffodils). The winter stem garden project had increased in size to the adjacent side of the bridge and this will be planted with ferns. The paddling pool paving had been renovated and the building painted and with the recent warm weather had been open every day from noon.

### **Community & Events**

The Gardening club was continuing with weekly sessions throughout the summer in the Jubilee Food Garden.

The educational sessions held in the Park continued. As part of Newham Education Partnerships 'Work Week' scheme, children from Gallions Reach primary attended a session on 16 June looking at the role of gardeners and keepers and highlighting areas such as biodiversity and habitats. As part of this same scheme, the Outreach, Sustainability and Biodiversity officer visited Gallions Reach Nursery School to carry out sessions on being a Gardener.

**Friends of West Ham Park held a 'Poppies for Peace'** took place on 28th June – a day in commemoration of the centenary of the start of WW1. This involved a guided tour of the meadows from one of the Friends members, a craft stall making your own poppy, a display on poppies of the world and an explanation of why the red cornfield poppy is of significance to WW1, and a peace tree for the public to write peace messages. Despite the heavy rain approximately 60 adults and children attended.

On 8<sup>th</sup> July the Outreach, Sustainability and Biodiversity officer judged flowers at Earlham Primary School as part of the London Children's Flower Society competition.

St. Angela's and St. Bonaventure's 6<sup>th</sup> form students returned to the Park on 10<sup>th</sup> July to help weed and mulch a hedge line as part of their Community Action Day.

**ActiveNewham** organised a series of healthy activities to take place daily over the next 2 months, as part of the Park Lives initiative sponsored by a large drinks manufacturer.

The **Lord Mayors visit** was a great success on a beautiful June day (6<sup>th</sup>) and she planted a foxglove tree (*Paulownia tormentosa*) by the tennis courts.

**Green Flag** judging took place on the 11 June and the Flag would be raised with a staff photo to celebrate **Love Parks Week** on the 29<sup>th</sup> July, and hopefully this would be in the local press that week.

**25<sup>th</sup> July** MP's visit to WHP – Stephen Timms MP for East Ham, Lyn Brown MP for West Ham would receive a tour of the park and a talk from Linda Phillips (Roots and Shoots) on the successful apprenticeship scheme and Leonora Thompson on the Barbican.

**Trees** – a survey of the 2000 trees in the park was completed by Islington Tree Officers via a framework contract agreement we have with them.

Discussions ensued regarding the investigation into the recent cable strike at West Ham Park. Members agreed that this was a very serious incident which could have ended in disaster. As such, the Committee were in agreement that due to the nature of the incident that the contractor and sub-contractor concerned be prohibited from undertaking any further work with the City Corporation, pending a report from the City Surveyor reviewing the incident.

**Resolved:**

That the Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman in consultation with the Town Clerk to submit the City Surveyor's report to the Project Sub Committee meeting in September 2014.

5. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2013/14 - WEST HAM PARK**

The Committee noted the comparison between the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2013/14 and the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a worse than budget position of £46,000 for the services overseen by the Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year.

Members noted that the Director's better than budget position of £16,000 (Local Risk) had been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produced an overall better than budget position of £232,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. It was proposed to carry forward £217,000 of this underspend. These requests would be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

Officers informed Members that the Nursery was a trading account which although formed part of the Director of Open Spaces Local Risk any surplus or deficits are transferred to and from reserve respectively. The City Surveyor's £71,000 overspend was mainly due to the re-phasing of the Additional Works programme.

6. **FRIENDS OF WEST HAM PARK - ANNUAL UPDATE**

The Committee noted the projects that the Friends of West Ham Park had successfully achieved throughout their seventh year. Over the past year, four public meetings had been held by the Friends at the local Scout hall and on occasion on the bandstand in the Park. At their annual meeting in June 2013,

the Friends re-elected their eighth Chairman, Ms Nicky Brown, and Deputy Chairman, Mr Ron Innell. At this annual meeting, the Friends suggest projects that they would like to be involved in and agree a timetable of events for the forthcoming year.

The events hosted included stargazing walks, bat walks and making poppies at the Poppies for Peace event in Commemoration of the centenary of the start of WW1. Members were informed that that Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee had agreed a resolution thanking all volunteers for their hard work throughout the year.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

**9. 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.

**10. MINUTES**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 1.00 pm**

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Chairman

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