

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, 20 April 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 20 April 2015 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Wendy Mead
Jeremy Simons
Michael Welbank
Catherine Bickmore
Richard Gurney
Councillor Bryan Collier MBE
Councillor Joy Laguda MBE
Graeme Smith

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Louisa Allen	City Gardens Manager
Martin Rodman	Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens
Esther Sumner	Open Spaces Business Manager
Alison Elam	Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
John Park	Press Officer, Public Relations Office

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Deputy Alex Deane, Deputy Robert Howard, Justin Meath-Baker, Barbara Newman and Virginia Rounding.

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

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – that the minutes be agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising:-

Infrastructure Bill

The Committee agreed to delete paragraph 2 under the minute regarding the Infrastructure Bill, which the Town Clerk noted.

Application for new park gate by Park Primary School

In response to a query from Members, Officers agreed that the following wording would be added to the minutes of this item:

“Members raised concerns over whether the health and safety of park users would be impacted due to the introduction of a new entry to the park. Officers agreed that these issues would need to be taken into consideration at the design stage. Members were also informed that Officers would consider the heritage and the historic layout of the paths. Members noted that these changes may add to the number of paths; however, this would be discussed at the design stage, should the London Borough of Newham wish to progress the proposal.”

The Superintendent of West Ham Park informed the Committee that he had written to the London Borough of Newham following the Committee’s decision to allow Officers to enter into negotiations regarding the proposal; however, no response had been received.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received an update from the Superintendent of West Ham Park. Members noted that a specialist consultancy company were appointed earlier this year to undertake a feasibility study of the West Ham Park nursery and to make recommendations about its future sustainability or possible alternative uses for the site. Their final report was due at the beginning of this month and, although this had been received, the Superintendent was not fully satisfied with the quality of the report or the company’s analysis of some of the options. Members noted that Officers had requested more detail and supporting evidence in some areas of the report, and would be bringing a full report on the future of the nursery to the Committee before recess.

Members noted that a star gazing event was held in February and a former chair of the Friends Group gave a very professional presentation. Newham radio attended and recorded an interview which was featured on their community hour slot. Other outreach and community events which have taken place include Newham Work week when the Outreach Officer attended local schools to talk about the role of a gardener; a rose pruning work shop took place in the ornamental gardens and Habitat restoration work was carried out in the education garden with the friends.

Members were informed that brick paver paths had been repaired in the ornamental garden through the City surveyor’s additional works programme. The mesh fencing in the nursery poly tunnel was also due to be repaired in the coming weeks.

The Superintendent informed Members that the Lord Mayor’s visit to West Ham Park would take place on 29th May 2015 with a drinks reception following the tour. A formal dinner would take place at Guildhall on 2nd July 2015 for Members of the West Ham Park and Open Spaces & City Gardens Committees. This change would grant the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Director the flexibility to invite key partners and organisations to future events they may wish to host throughout the year.

RESOLVED – that the update be received.

5. BUSINESS PLAN COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee were presented with the Open Spaces Business Plan report and noted that the four departmental objectives were to:

- Protect and conserve the ecology, biodiversity and heritage of our sites.
- Embed financial sustainability across our activities by delivering identified programmes and projects.
- Enrich the lives of Londoners by providing a high quality and engaging learning and volunteering offer.
- Improve the health and wellbeing of our communities through access to green space and recreation.

Members noted that the delivery of these objectives was supported by a number of corporate, departmental and divisional projects and programmes. These were illustrated on a roadmap. Members also noted the list of charitable objectives and agreed that these were an important priority for the years ahead.

In response to a query regarding the format of the report, Officers informed Members that the use of roadmaps was being implemented by departments across the organisation as they served as a useful tool for examining the status of projects at a glance. Officers were able to compare projects taking place across the City's open spaces and could therefore allocate staff and other resources in a more beneficial manner. Members agreed that a 'navigation aid' to explain the roadmaps would be helpful, along with the inclusion of a full key on each roadmap.

In response to a query, Officers agreed to investigate the West Ham Park charitable objective. Members also noted that in future they would only receive the roadmap relevant to their open space, with the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee receiving the full report.

RESOLVED – that the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18 be agreed.

6. WEST HAM PARK SPORTS CHARGES 2015/16

The Committee were presented with the proposed fees and charges for sports facilities provided at West Ham Park for 2015/16.

RESOLVED – that the proposed schedule of charges for sports facilities in West Ham Park for the 2015/16 financial year be approved.

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

MOTION - It was agreed 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 be agreed as an accurate record.

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

There was one question.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 2.25 pm

Chairman

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