

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE **Monday, 4 December 2017**

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Rooms
- Second Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 4 December 2017 at 12.15 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder
Barbara Newman
Graeme Smith (Chairman)
Michael Welbank
Justin Meath-Baker
Robert Cazenove
Councillor Bryan Collier MBE
Jeremy Simons

Officers:

Alison Elam	-	Chamberlain's Department
Martin Rodman	-	Superintendent, Parks & Gardens
Lucy Anne Murphy	-	West Ham Park Manager
Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Colin Buttery	-	Director of Open Spaces & Heritage
Michael Bradbury	-	City Surveyor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Wendy Mead, Catherine Bickmore, Oliver Sells, Deputy John Tomlinson, Revd Stennett Kirby, Richard Gurney and Joy Laguda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes be received as an accurate record.

4. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received an update from the Superintendent and noted that the budget for West Ham Park is currently in line with anticipated expenditure for this time of year, with the exception of income from property which is currently higher than anticipated. This is due to the rent review of The Cedars yielding a higher than anticipated increase following protracted negotiations. This income is being used to fund fees and charges relating to the first phase of the Playground Improvement Project. The apprentice gardener is settling in well and will begin college in January 2018. Recruitment is currently taking place for the vacant gardener position.

Resolved – that the update be noted.

5. OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee considered the Open Spaces business plan and noted that the departmental ambitions are that:

- Our habitats are ecologically thriving, and diverse
- Our places for play, learning, tranquillity, cultural experiences, enjoyment, wellbeing and exercise are high quality, inclusive and accessible to all
- Our heritage is preserved and we share history and stories through our spaces and buildings
- We provide thought leadership which is grounded in our innovative practices, knowledge and expertise

6. REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS - 2017/18 & 2018/19

The Committee noted an update on the latest approved revenue budget for 2017/18 and seeks your approval for a provisional revenue budget for 2018/19, for

subsequent submission to the Finance Committee. The budgets have been prepared within the resources allocated to the Director and overall the provisional Original budget for 2018/19 totals £1.614M, an increase of £416,000 compared with the latest approved budget for 2017/18. The main reasons for this increase is a rise of £484,000 in the City Surveyor's Repairs & Maintenance costs, a decrease of £49,000 in customer & client receipts, off-set by a reduction of £65,000 in supplies & services and a reduction of £60,000 within Learning Recharges.

In response to a query regarding West Ham Park Nursery, Members were informed that a report with options available to the Committee was due to be submitted for consideration in Spring 2018.

Resolved – that the update be received.

7. WEST HAM PARK SPORTS FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee noted that within the City of London Open Spaces, charges for sports activities are reviewed annually. The report set out the proposed fees and charges for sports facilities provided at West Ham Park in 2018/19.

In response to a query regarding concession charges and fees Members noted that the current prices were in line with local facilities. Members noted that fees for cricket pitches and tennis courts was higher than those charged for football pitches due to there being less local competition for the latter. The football pitches were also underused at present due to the close proximity of facilities at Wanstead Flats and because the changing rooms were a distance away from the pitches at West Ham Park.

Resolved – that Members approve the proposed schedule of charges for sports facilities in West Ham Park for the 2018/19 financial year.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

10. **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.

11. **CLAIM FOR ADVERSE POSSESSION**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Natasha Dogra
natasha.dogra@cityoflondon.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank