

OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS
Tuesday, 13 October 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens held at
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGY-d-3e9W0> on Tuesday, 13 October 2020 at
11.30 am

Present

Members:

Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Alderman Ian Luder
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Deputy John Tomlinson
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather (Ex-Officio Member)
Benjamin Murphy (Ex-Officio Member)

In attendance:

Deputy Phillip Woodhouse
Catherine Bickmore

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Leanne Murphy	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Media Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Head of Finance - Citizen Services, Chamberlains
Aqib Hussain	- Technology Support Partner, Chamberlain's Department
Richard Chamberlain	- Senior Project Liaison Officer, City Surveyor's Department
Mark Lowman	- Corporate Projects Director, City Surveyor's Department
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Jake Tibbetts	- City Gardens Manager, Open Spaces Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Fairweather and Alderman Ian Luder whom it was noted would be late.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations received.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 16 July 2020 for the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee.

RESOLVED- That the Order of the Court of Common Council Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee be noted.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Oliver Sells as the only Member expressing their willingness to serve was therefore duly elected Chairman for the ensuing year and took the Chair. The Chairman thanked the Committee for their continued support and commented that he wanted to return to meeting in person when possible.

RESOLVED – That Oliver Sells be elected Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Caroline Haines as the only Member expressing their willingness to serve was therefore duly elected Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year. The Deputy Chairman thanked the Committee for their support.

RESOLVED – That Caroline Haines be elected Deputy Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting held on the 16th of July 2020.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting held on the 16th of July 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE STREETS AND WALKWAYS SUB COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member as an Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee representative on the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee. The Town Clerk informed that, Barbara Newman being the only Member expressing a willingness to stand, was therefore appointed as the representative.

RESOLVED- That Barbara Newman be appointed as the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee representative on the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee.

8. **CITY GARDENS UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which provided an update to Members on the management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since July 2020. The Director of Open Spaces highlighted that the COVID streets programme had now commenced and the successful retention of the London in Bloom Gold award.

Following a question from a Member the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that Bunhill Fields was no longer on the English Heritage at-risk register.

The Chairman commented that the City of London Corporation was beginning to understand that open spaces and streets are deeply interchangeable, with more greening of public spaces of different types, through the use of planters. A Member commented that he agreed with this approach and noted particular thanks to City of London Gardener Nic Guerra for his work at the Rescue Nursery at All Hallows by the Tower. The Chairman noted the increased need to recognise those working outside at the City of London Corporation's offsite locations.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions received in the public session.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

There was no urgent business considered in the public session.

11. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION: 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.

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting held on the 16th of July 2020.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee meeting held on the 16th of July 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

13. **FINSBURY CIRCUS GARDEN REINSTATEMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor on the Finsbury Circus Garden Reinstatement.

RESOLVED- That the report be agreed.

14. **COMMITTEE DEBT ARREARS REPORT**

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces on Debt Arrears Invoiced Income for the Period Ending 31 March 2020.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

The Committee considered one question in the non-public session.

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

There was no further business considered in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 12.28 pm

Chairman

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