

WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 2 December 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Virtual Meeting
accessible remotely on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 at 12.15 pm

Present

Members:

Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Alderman Ian Luder
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Cllr James Asser
Catherine Bickmore
Justin Meath-Baker
Richard Gurney

Officers:

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1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Karina Dostalova, Robert Cazenove and Deputy John Tomlinson.

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

No declarations were received.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 13th of October 2020.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 13th of October 2020 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **WEST HAM PARK PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the West Ham Park Playground refurbishment project. The Director of Open Spaces introduced the report and highlighted the financial context of the City of London Corporation noting the effect this had on the options for the project. The Chairman noted that it was important to move forward with the funding secured and explore further options at an appropriate stage. A Member agreed noting that any undue delay to the project could cause agreed funding to be withdrawn. The Deputy Chairman informed the Committee that further funding sources were being explored.

Responding to a Member's query the Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the playground was reviewed for safety weekly by Officers and on an annual basis externally.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The revised budget of £864,775 and agree that Option 2 – refurbishing the playground within the existing footprint be implemented, to be funded from the resources previously identified for this scheme be approved; and
- II. That the revised scope of the project be approved; and
- III. That the Costed Risk Provision of £155,000 be approved.

5. **DRAFT OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Draft Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2021/22.

The responding to a query from a Committee member the Director of Open Spaces explained that options for carbon sequestration would be explored across all of the open spaces however the larger spaces more be priosited for this work.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **DEPARTMENTAL BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21 - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE: APRIL TO SEPT 2020**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Departmental Business Plan 2020/21 Six-month performance update for April to Sept 2020.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **PARK MANAGER'S UPDATE**

The Committee reived a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Park Managers update. The Director of Open Spaces introduced the report and highlighted the visit of the Lady Mayoress to West Ham Park. The Chairman commented on the success of the lady Mayoress' visit.

A Committee member questioned why a full time park Keeper, who left the West Ham Park Team in November, had been replaced with two temporary members of staff. The Director of Open Spaces explained that this was inline with efficiency savings,, which had been agreed across the City of London Corporation, any staff hired are to be on fixed term contract.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **CWP 21/22 UPDATED BID REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor on the CWP 21/22 Updated Bid Report.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted

9. **PLANNING WHITE PAPER**

The Committee received a report of the Remembrancer on the Planning White Paper.

Responding to a query from a Committee member the Director of Open Spaces explained that the open spaces listed in paragraph 8 were those with specific legislation and was not intended to be a complete list of important open spaces managed by the City of London Corporation.

resolved- That the report be noted.

10. **SUMMARY OF KEY OPEN SPACES MEDIA COVERAGE: OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 2020**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on which provided a summary of a key open spaces media coverage October to November 2020. The Chairman noted that he was open to suggestions for subject matters for his article in the Newham Recorder. The Deputy Chairman added that she was open to liaise on the matter of social media.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions received in the public session.

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

The Chairman thanked staff and volunteers for their contribution in an extortionary year. The Committee agreed and put on record its thanks to staff and volunteers. Responding to a query from the Deputy Chairman the Director of Open Spaces explained that options were being explored for convening the volunteers reception remotely.

13. **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.

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the draft non-public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 13th of October 2020.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 13th of October 2020 be approved as an accurate record

15. **NURSERY UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Nursery update.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

16. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions received in the non-public session.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

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

The meeting ended at 1.24 pm

Chairman

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