



West Ham Park Committee

Date: TUESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2022
Time: 12.15 pm, or on the rising of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee, whichever is later
Venue: HYBRID MEETING (COMMITTEE ROOMS, GUILDHALL / VIRTUAL ACCESSIBLE REMOTELY)

Members: Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Catherine Bickmore (External Member)
Rafe Courage (External Member)
Alderman Ian Luder
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Justin Meath-Baker (External Member)
Andrew McMurtrie
Richard Gurney (External Member)
Cllr James Asser (External Member)
Cllr Joy Laguda (External Member)
Deputy John Tomlinson
Rev. Simon Nicholls (External Member)

Enquiries: **Richard Holt**
Richard.Holt@CityofLondon.gov.uk

Accessing the virtual public meeting

Members of the public can observe this virtual public meeting via YouTube at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/aB6ZqkC1uhw>

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one municipal year. Please note: online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

3. **MINUTES**

To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the previous meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held on the 7th of December 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 8)

4. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

Report of the Executive Director Environment.

For Information
(Pages 9 - 12)

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

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

7. **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.

For Decision

Non-public Agenda

8. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To agree the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held on the 7th of December 2021.

For Decision
(Pages 13 - 14)

9. **WEST HAM PARK NURSERY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT DISPOSAL
DEVELOPER SELECTION**

Joint report of the Executive Director Environment and the City Surveyor.

For Decision
(Pages 15 - 104)

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

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

Confidential

12. **CONFIDENTIAL REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**
Report of the Town Clerk.

To be circulated separately.

For Information

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WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE Tuesday, 7 December 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Room -
2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at 12.15 pm

Present

Members:

Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Barbara Newman
Andrew McMurtrie
Councillor James Asser
Catherine Bickmore
Justin Meath-Baker
Richard Gurney
Councillor Joy Laguda MBE

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Town Clerk's Department
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, West Ham Park and City Gardens, Environment Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Business Manager, Environment Department
Beth West	- Director of Open Spaces, Environment Department
Ricky O'Garro	- Environment Department
Kelley Hassan	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Wendy Mead, Reverend Simon Nicholls, Deputy John Tomlinson, Rafe Courage and Alderman Ian Luder.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Joy Laguda back to the West Ham Park Committee after her reappointment to the Committee by the London Borough of Newham.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT

There was no declaration received.

3. MINUTES

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 12th of October 2021.

A Committee member requested that a question they asked about the appointment of the West Ham Park Manager be added the minutes of the previous meeting.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee held on the 12th of October 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **WEST HAM PARK FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW FOR SPORTS AND EVENTS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the West Ham Park Fees and Charges Review.

A member raised concern that the proposed fees were not in line with the comparable figures which had been benchmarked. The Chairman commented that he did not perceive there to be any problematic discrepancy in prices. The Executive Director Environment confirmed that an extensive benchmarking exercise had been completed and that prices had been increased in line with RPI. It was added that any discrepancies in pricing from the benchmarked figure were a reflection of local pricing and factors such as the extent of facilities at the different sites. The Deputy Chairman noted that the Committee had previously agreed to keep pricing in line with inflation until at least the end of the year. The Executive Director Environment explained that some local sites were due to review their pricing structure in April which would add to any current difference in price reflected in the report.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The proposed schedule of charges (attached at Appendix 2) for sports facilities in West Ham Park for the 2022/23 financial year be approved; and
- II. The proposed Bringing Communities Together and summer fair events detailed in paragraph 14 be approved.

5. **DEPARTMENTAL AND SERVICE COMMITTEE BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022/23**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director Environment and the Chamberlain on the Departmental and Service Committee Budget Estimates 2022/23.

Responding to a Committee member's question it was confirmed that staff numbers had not decreased as vacancies were covered by temporary positions and, therefore, there was no substantive difference in staffing costs.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

6. **OPEN SPACES COVERAGE 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on the summary of open spaces media coverage for November 2021.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

7. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2022/23**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan for 2022/23.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 - SIX MONTH PERFORMANCE UPDATE: APRIL TO SEPT 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Open Spaces Business Plan 2021/22 Six-month performance update: April to Sept 2021.

The Deputy Chairman commended Officers for the awards, as specified in the report that West Ham Park had received.

Responding to a query from a Committee member the Chairman and Deputy Chairman confirmed that the carbon sequestration, referred to in the report, included West Ham Park.

Replying to a Member's question regarding the playground, the Executive Director Environment explained that an agreement had just been reached with the contractor to start on site late January, with a completion date of late spring being targeted.

A Committee member highlighted the campaign by local residents regarding the nursery site at West Ham Park. It was confirmed that no further information could be provided by Officers as this was campaign by the Friends of West Ham Park with the information available online.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Superintendent's update for West Ham Park.

The Deputy Chairman congratulated the Learning Team for their successes in returning to the levels of engagement enjoyed before the COVID pandemic at West Ham Park.

The Chairman asked Officers to confirm if there was a defibrillator at the sporting facilities for West Ham Park. The Executive Director Environment confirmed that there was not currently one at the site but that enquiries were being made for procuring one. The Chairman suggested that this be arranged as swiftly as possible. A Committee member confirmed that he was happy to connect Officers with the London Borough of Newham Public Health Team as helpful.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

10. **PUBLIC REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on the action taken outside of the Committee.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

Responding to a question on the relationship between dog walkers and the general public in West Ham Park the Executive Director Environment explained that this relationship was generally good as it was well managed by Officers present at the Park.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT.

There was no urgent business considered in the public session.

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 non-public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee meeting held on the 12th of October 2021.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the West Ham Park Committee held on the 12th of October 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

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

The committee received one question in the non-public session.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items considered in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Richard Holt
Richard.Holt@cityoflondon.gov.uk / 020 73323113

Committee	Dated:
West Ham Park Committee	15 February 2022
Subject: West Ham Park Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Juliemma McLoughlin, Executive Director Environment Department	For Information
Report author: Ricky O’Garro, West Ham Park Acting Supervisor	

Summary

This report provides an update to Members of the West Ham Park Committee on management and operational activities at West Ham Park since December 2021. The funding for the work stated is met through the Park’s local risk budget (City’s Cash), apart from the Playground Project, which is a capital bid.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report

Main Report

Current Position

Budget and Personnel

1. **Budgets:** At this point in the financial year, the outturn is projected to be in line with the budget envelope, with the potential for a small underspend because of the delay in purchasing the replacement vehicle due to the impacts of both Brexit and Covid (causing supply chain issues).

2. **Staffing:** with the weather remaining mostly dry the visitor numbers remain constant over the winter period. The keepers and gardeners have been busy with regular maintenance, clearing leaves, renovating grass areas, cutting hedges, and mulching and manuring beds. The security company Park Guard have been invaluable in assisting keepers with patrolling the park but, now

that a member of staff has returned from long term sickness, their services are no longer required.

Community, Volunteering, Outreach, and events

3. **Friends of West Ham Park:** The Friends held a food bank collection on the bandstand on 5th December 2021. At the event the public were called upon to donate non-perishable food items, hygiene, and baby products. Many people donated throughout the day and at close of business, two full carloads of goods left the Park to be transferred to a central food bank in Plaistow.
4. Park in the Dark was held in early December. The participants made lanterns using glowsticks for a procession through the Park to the bandstand after the normal closing time. Refreshments and carol singing, with the Park Primary School Choir, took place on the bandstand. Approximately 250 people attended the event with excellent post-event feedback on social media.
5. The Friends and the RSPB joined forces over the weekend of 15th and 16th January to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. There were nearly 100 participants over the two days, spotting and learning about birds around the Park.

Operational activities

6. Park Primary School have been involved in bulb planting in the Ornamental Gardens. The bulbs were supplied free of charge by Taylors, Bulbs for London scheme. The gardeners, with the help of four classes over three days, planted nearly 1000 daffodil, tulip, and allium bulbs.
7. The Park has recently purchased a new semi-automatic defibrillator. The unit is extremely easy to use and has voice prompts to keep the user calm and provide instructions on use. It also gives direction on how to apply CPR correctly. The unit is in the main office and signage is displayed around the Park to inform users of its location and how to access it.
8. The team has recently purchased a new Opico 4.5m Hydraulic Folding Grass Harrow, which will be delivered before the end of the month. This is to replace the very old chain harrow that had been used for many years and for which, due to its age, it was no longer possible to obtain replacement parts to maintain it. The purpose of a grass harrow is to remove thatch from the grass sward, which then allows air movement to improve root aeration and water infiltration.
9. The Youth Cricket Club held a small event on the bandstand on 26th January launching their "Bowl out racism" campaign. To attract visitors, they had arranged to borrow the Cricket World Cup Trophy to display, and for photo shoots. Local schools and cricket clubs were invited along. The group are planning another event with the silverware later in the spring.

Property Matters

10. **Playground Refurbishment Project:** The selected contractor took temporary possession of the playground site on Monday 24th January and demolition work has started. Contractors have been working closely with Park staff on setting up and Health and Safety on site.

Corporate and Strategic Implications

11. The work and activities outlined in this report contribute to numerous strands of the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-2023, but notably outcome 12. “our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained”, under the Shape Outstanding Environments strand.

Financial/Resource/Legal/Risk/Equalities/Climate/Security/Public sector equality duty Implications

12. None.

Conclusion

13. Officers have been working hard to manage increased numbers of visitors and to encourage people back to using the Park’s full range of services as lockdown restrictions have eased. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Ricky O’Garro

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