

**OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS**  
**Monday, 14 October 2019**

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 14 October 2019 at 11.30 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Oliver Sells QC (Chairman)  
Graeme Doshi-Smith (Deputy Chairman)  
Alderman Ian Luder  
Wendy Mead  
Jeremy Simons  
Deputy John Tomlinson  
Caroline Haines

**In attendance:**

Verderer Joanna Thomas  
Catherine Bickmore

**Officers:**

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Mark Eyre	- Senior Principal Surveyor, City Surveyor's Department
Mark Lowman	- City Surveyor's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Colin BATTERY	- Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent, Parks & Gardens
Abigail Tinkler	- Head of Learning, Open Spaces Department
Jake Tibbetts	- City Gardens Manager, Open Spaces Department
Gerry Kiefer	- Business Manager, Open Spaces Department
Madhur Gurjar	- Project Manager, Open Spaces Department

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Barbara Newman.

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

There were no declarations received.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2019.

**RESOLVED-** That the public minutes and non-public summary of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **BREXIT UPDATE**

The Director of Open Spaces provided Members with a summary of the impact of the Brexit process on the City of London Corporation's Open Spaces Department. The Director of Open Spaces confirmed that the Department had established contingency plans to mitigate issues related to the Brexit processes including securing funding from the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' Countryside Stewardship Scheme in relation to Epping Forest.

**RESOLVED-** That the update be noted.

5. **THREE YEAR REVIEW OF THE OPEN SPACES DEPARTMENT'S 'GREEN SPACES, LEARNING PLACES' PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces regarding the Three-year review of the Open Spaces Department's 'Green Spaces, Learning Places' programme. Members commented that the Learning programme was of vital importance to the Open Spaces department and endorsed the continued funding of similar educational schemes. Following comments made by Members of the Committee the Chairman agreed that more should be done to publicise the educational work undertaken by the Open Spaces Department.

**RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

6. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces which provided an update on the management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since July 2019.

The Chairman commended the City Gardens section on receipt of the Gold London in Bloom award and observed that more should be done to publicise the similar successes of the Open Spaces Department.

**RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions received in the public session

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

The Committee considered a late joint report of the Director of Innovation & Growth, Director of the Built Environment and Director of Open Spaces relating to the Climate Action Briefing Implementation. The Director of Open Spaces introduced the report and outlined the intention of the three directors to combine resources to more effectively tackle carbon emissions and increase resilience to changed weather patterns. In addition, the Director highlighted the importance of Open Spaces Department to this work through carbon offsetting and noted the City's target of achieving carbon neutrality by 2030.

A Member of the Committee noted that the Scope 3 emissions would be the most challenging for the City of London Corporation to combat and stated that an increased importance on sustainability would be needed for construction within the City of London.

**RESOLVED-** That: -

- I. The robust approach taken and current position of developing a Climate Action Strategy for both the Square Mile and the City of London Corporation be noted; and
- II. That the reprioritisation of 2019-20 Open Spaces (£75,000) budget to cover the costs of the consultancy support required to deliver the Climate Action Briefing be approved.

10. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED-** That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the following items of business on the grounds they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee held on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2019.

**RESOLVED-** That the non-public minutes of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 be approved as an accurate record.

12. **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.

13. **RENNIE GARDEN**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor on Rennie Gardens.

**RESOLVED-** That the report be agreed as amended by the Committee.

14. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on action taken meetings of the Committee in accordance with Standing Order 41 (a).

**RESOLVED-** That the report be noted.

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

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

**The meeting ended at 11.55 am**

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Chairman

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