

OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS
Monday, 18 April 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 18 April 2016 at 2.15 pm

Present

Members:

Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Alderman Gordon Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Virginia Rounding (Ex-Officio Member)
Jeremy Simons
Michael Welbank
Verderer Peter Adams (Observer)
Catherine Bickmore (Observer)
Alderman Robert Howard

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	- Director of Open Spaces
Louisa Allen	- City Gardens Manager
Martin Rodman	- Superintendent of Parks and Gardens
Lucy Murphy	- West Ham Park Manager
Alison Elam	- Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Graeme Smith, Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Alex Deane, Barbara Newman, Wendy Mead and John Beyer.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

4. 2016 TO 2019 OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN

The Business Plan details fifteen key actions over a five year period that will deliver these departmental and charitable objectives. In order to manage performance, twenty four 'SMART' performance indicators have been proposed. This will enable the Department to show, over a three year period that it is working towards continuous improvement.

Members noted that the Department's vision was to "*Preserve and protect our world class green spaces for the benefit of our*

local communities and the environment". The Committee suggested that this vision also should infer the importance of the enhancement of the green spaces.

The Committee agreed that the strategic role played by Elected Members and the function of decision making Committees should be brought to the forefront of the business plan. The Committee said the Superintendents should continue to work with Members, especially their Chairmen, for a steer before reports were considered at committee meetings.

Resolved – that the business plan and risk register be agreed, with any minor amendments being delegated to the Director of Open Spaces and the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

5. OAK PROCESSIONARY MOTH PLAN 2016

Members were provided with a briefing on the plans for Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) management across London and the South East in 2016. The Director informed Members of the implications for the management of OPM on City of London Open Spaces. Members were advised on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) plans for a review following their three year pilot. The Committee noted that a further report would be presented to Members later in the year to advise on both the outcome of the review and actions taken to manage OPM on City of London Open Spaces in 2016.

Members were informed that on 7th April 2016 caterpillars had appeared in London and had been sprayed. Spraying of affected trees will start during April on sites outside of the core zone. Members noted that Defra had committed a further one year's funding for 2016, to enable the current pilot to continue whilst the evaluation work is completed. It is expected that the outcome of this review will be known by the autumn of 2016.

In response to a query, Officers informed the Committee that the Chamberlain has confirmed that, if control works place undue pressure on local risk budgets, then additional support would be found.

Resolved – that the report be received.

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Committee received the update from the City Gardens Manager and noted that since 1st February, Parkguard Ltd, had been delivering a patrol service in Bunhill Fields Burial Ground. Patrol officers dealt with a number of issues, including dog owners not keeping their dogs on leads and nuisance bicyclists riding through the main thoroughfare. They provided advice and guidance to offenders, reminding them of the site byelaws and in one incident called the police due to criminal activity. The pilot continues until August when findings from the service will be appraised and recommendations for future management planned.

The Committee noted that a City in Bloom launch event attended by representatives from the City's community groups, residents and businesses

took place on 29th February. The groups were assisting the City Gardens team to plan and implement this year's Britain, London and City in Bloom campaigns. Members noted that Clean for The Queen was a campaign launched by Country Life magazine in partnership with Keep Britain Tidy to clear up Britain in time for The Queen's 90th birthday. The City Gardens team in partnership with the Built Environment department used the opportunity to create a display of cigarette stubs which had been collected across the City during the previous two weeks. The display was set up in Festival Gardens over the weekend of 5th and 6th March.

Resolved – that the report be received.

7. **CITY OF LONDON DRAFT BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN (2016-2020)**

Members were informed that the report was a follow-up report to that dated 1st February, and explains the consultation process regarding the production of the draft City of London Biodiversity Action Plan. Following a period of consultation, proposed changes have been added where appropriate. Comments from the consultation have been summarised and collated.

Resolved – that Members agreed the final draft City of London Biodiversity Action Plan for adoption and publication.

7B Christ's Hospital Foundation Artwork Installation

Members noted that the Christ's Hospital Foundation were seeking consent to place a sculpture in Christchurch Greyfriars Garden. The sculpture was to be donated to the City Corporation to commemorate the 350-year history of the school's association with the City.

Resolved – that Members agreed, in principle, to the siting of the Christ's Hospital Foundation sculpture at Christchurch Greyfriars Garden and delegated authority to the Director of Open Spaces in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to agree the details of installation and enter into the required licence, subject to all costs being met by Christ's Hospital Foundation.

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

There were two questions raised by Members.

Open Spaces Bill

The Director informed Members that the Open Spaces Bill had received a second reading in the House of Commons and had obtained agreement from the Charity Commission. The Remembrancer was now dealing with a technical matter regarding how the views of objectors would be addressed. The Director and Remembrancer were due to meet with the Open Spaces Society tomorrow. The Director emphasised the need for a full and in depth consultation process to ensure the views of all relevant parties were sought.

Park Run

In response to a query regarding the possibility of charging for Park Run, the Director informed Members that this recent national issue had not yet been discussed at a departmental leadership team meeting.

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

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. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

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

13. **FINSBURY CIRCUS - CROSSRAIL REINSTATEMENT ISSUES**

The Committee considered a report informing Members regarding the reinstatement of Finsbury Circus Garden.

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

There were no questions.

14. **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.

The meeting ended at 3:20pm.

Chairman

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