

**OPEN SPACES, CITY GARDENS & WEST HAM PARK COMMITTEE**  
**Monday, 11 June 2012**

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 11 June 2012 at 11.30 am

**Present**

**Members:**

Alderman Robert Hall (Chairman)  
Dr Peter Hardwick (Deputy Chairman)  
Deputy Stella Currie  
Alex Deane  
Deputy Michael Welbank  
Catherine Bickmore  
Robert Cazenove  
Justin Meath-Baker  
Alderman Gordon Haines (Ex-Officio Member)  
Barbara Newman (Ex-Officio Member)  
Jeremy Simons (Ex-Officio Member)  
Tony Ghilchik (Observer)  
Verderer Peter Adams (Observer)

**Officers:**

Edward Foale	- Town Clerk's Department
Esther Sumner	- Town Clerk's Department
Sue Ireland	- Open Spaces Department
Martin Rodman	- Open Spaces Department
Denis Whelton	- Open Spaces Department
Patrick Hegarty	- Open Spaces Department
Alison Elam	- Chamberlain's Department
Edward Wood	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Andrew Cotton	- City Surveyor's Department

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alderman Ian Luder, Sheriff & Deputy Wendy Mead, Deputy Janet Owen, Richard Gurney and Charlotte Evans.

**2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

**3. MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 25 April 2012 were approved, subject to the following amendment and insertion:

Item 4 Election of Chairman

*A Member advised that they believed that Members of the Committee present for consideration of West Ham Park business only were eligible to stand as Chairman or Deputy Chairman.*

Item 15 Drought Order

*“Thames Water advised that it this year it was unlikely to move towards stage three measures, which would mean a Full Drought Order including measures such as restricted water use times for domestic residences, reduced pressure and standpipes in the street, but could reserve this as a contingency for 2013 should the UK experience another dry winter in 2012.”*

**MATTERS ARISING**

Members noted that the name of the garden under construction at St. Paul's Coach Park had been agreed and will be called the “Queen's Diamond Jubilee Garden.’

The Chairman made reference to an undertaking of the Town Clerk to circulate to Members the dates of all meetings and events relating to the Committee, and advised that in December 2012 and February 2013 it would not be possible to meet at 11.30am without causing a clash with another body which had a shared membership. Members decided to meet at 1.45pm on these two dates. The Town Clerk undertook to circulate the required information to all Committee Members.

**4. DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY PROCEDURES**

Members considered a report the of Town Clerk. The report provided details of decisions taken under urgent action in accordance with Standing Order 39.

Members noted the following decision which had been taken under urgency procedures, since the last meeting of the Committee:-

Consultation on Implementation of Amendments to the Reservoirs Act 1975.

**RECEIVED**

**5. PROVISIONAL ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2013/14 AND 2014/15**

Members received a report of the City Surveyor that set out a provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for properties under the management of the Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park Committee in 2013/14 and 2014/15 under the umbrella of the “additional works programme”.

In response to a Member's query, the Superintendent advised that bat surveys would be undertaken where necessary and the scheduled works would not be allowed to disturb bat habitats.

The Superintendent advised that it was hoped that a grant from the Tessa Sanderson Foundation Academy could be used to part-fund the root barrier installation at the tennis courts at West Ham Park.

## **RECEIVED**

### **Part A - West Ham Park**

#### **6. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Superintendent of West Ham Park & City Gardens relative to West Ham Park matters. The following points were made:

- Spending for 2012/13 was currently within budget.
- A new Keeper-Gardener, Michael Jump, would start in July. A part-time Support Services Officer, Joy Vijayan, would start shortly. It was hoped the new role would reduce work load pressures in the office.
- Free tennis coaching had been cancelled as part of the recent round of budget cuts. In order to continue to be able to offer this service, an agreement with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) was currently being finalised at which point the position of a tennis coach would be advertised through the LTA website.
- Income from use of the Cricket square was lower than expected due to the poor weather in April, May & June.
- Gardening Club meetings were currently being held monthly.

The Chairman expressed how much he had enjoyed the recent visit to West Ham Park despite the poor weather. The Deputy Chairman thanked the Chairman for arranging the visit on behalf of the Committee, but noted that he was not wearing a Committee tie on the day. Deputy Stella Currie proceeded to present the Chairman with a Committee tie and the Chairman thanked her for the gift.

## **RECEIVED**

### **Part B - Open Spaces**

#### **7. SEETHING LANE GARDEN**

Members considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces relative to rebuilding Seething Lane Garden as part of the redevelopment of 10 Trinity Square EC3.

In response to a Member's query, the Section 106 for the provision of the garden was clarified.

**RESOLVED:** that Members,

- i) Approve the detailed design proposals attached to the report as shown on drawing numbers 048085-L100-F and 048085-L701-F which are to be undertaken wholly at the cost of Bullet Investments Limited or its successors subject to:
  - (a) Full costs being met by Bullet Investments Limited (and/or its successors);

- (b) The advance receipt of an £800,000 cash deposit for the contingency cost of the making good of Seething Lane Garden;
  - (c) The advance receipt of the Estimated Soft Landscaping Works Cost.
- ii) Give the authority to start work, as outlined in this report, in line with the City's project management procedures.

**8. ANNUAL REVIEW OF VOLUNTEER WORKING ON THE OPEN SPACES**

Members received a report of the Director of Open Spaces. In the last year many volunteers who live near our Open Spaces had continued to carry out a wide range of tasks that had supported the Superintendents in managing their areas. During this period the overall number of volunteer hours had increased and had benefited the maintenance of each area. The report summarised the extent of the work carried out by volunteers across all of the City's Open Spaces in 2011/12, which amounted to over 46,000 hours worked from all sources, an increase of 1,132 hours on the previous year.

In response to a request from the Chairman, the Town Clerk undertook to have the report received by the Court of Common Council. The Chairman undertook to write to the various volunteering groups to express thanks on behalf of the Committee.

In response to a Member's query, the Director clarified that the volunteers' work schedule was in addition to, rather than a replacement of, the work schedule of Open Spaces department employees.

A Member expressed that they believed there were additional volunteers in Epping Forest that were not volunteering through the Estate Office. It could be possible to incorporate them into future reports.

In response to a Member's query, the Superintendent acknowledged that there may be instances in which an application to be a volunteer would be rejected, however in this instance efforts would be made to redeploy the individual to areas of more suitable work.

**RECEIVED**

**9. RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP – GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS AND INITIATIVES**

The Committee received a presentation from the Director of Open Spaces relative to responsible dog management, during which the following points were made:

- Secondary Authority Status was granted to the City of London on 1 May 2012 and came into force on 31 May 2012.
- The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) had opened a consultation on measures to promote more responsible dog ownership & reduce dog attacks. The closing date was 15 June 2012. The measures proposed were:

- The micro chipping of all dogs.
- Extending the criminal offence of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control to all places, including private property.
- Owners of dogs seized as suspected dangerous dogs or prohibited types to retain possession pending the outcome of court proceedings.
- An increase in the application fee for dogs to be placed on the index of exempted dogs.
- The Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Committee (EFRA) was holding a Dog Control & Welfare Inquiry, due to close on 2 July 2012. Comments have been invited on:
  - The need for a more fundamental overhaul of dog legislation and its enforcement.
  - The need for additional action on status dogs.
  - Dog licensing.
  - Proposals for community & education approaches.
  - The role of agencies in managing stray dogs.
- Putting Victims First – More effective response to anti-social behaviour, A Home Office White Paper published in May 2012, proposed the following:
  - Focussing the response to anti-social behaviour on victims' needs.
  - Supporting communities in establishing acceptable local behaviour.
  - Ensuring professionals have the powers needed to respond.
  - Long term solutions to antisocial behaviour, including irresponsible dog ownership.
  - The Director believed it could be up to two years before this White Paper was enacted.
- Progress Dog Control Orders
  - The City would consult on the introduction of a Dog Control Order at Burnham Beeches as a trial before developing a plan to Dog Control Orders elsewhere.

In response to a request from a Member, also the Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee- the Director undertook to submit a report regarding Dog Control Orders to the July meeting of the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee.

A Member was concerned that the introduction of compulsory micro chipping of dogs would be overly bureaucratic and disproportionate. He also considered that Members should have received information regarding this matter prior to the meeting. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman undertook to liaise with the Member and address his concerns within the City's consultation response.

**RECEIVED**

## Part C - City Gardens

### 10. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

The Superintendent of City Gardens & West Ham Park was heard relative to City Gardens matters, during which the following points were made:

- The current spend for City Gardens local risk was over budget. This was predominantly due to the cost of having to address the risk of Massaria in Plane trees. Expenditure so far this year on this issue alone was £37,000.
- The Superintendent had previously advised committee that the planned underspend in 2011/12 was to be used for Olympic-related costs. Now that a separate pot for the Olympics had been made available by the Chamberlain, he proposed to use the carry forward to fund the works to plane trees necessitated by the Massaria infection.
- Louisa Allen had been appointed as the new City Gardens Manager.
- Diamond Jubilee bedding had been planted on time. Olympic planting was continuing.
- Olympic Street dressing would commence in the first week of July.
- The hosepipe ban was likely to be lifted in advance of the Olympics.

In response to a Member's query, the Superintendent advised that it was currently not possible to confirm how many trees had been infected with Massaria. Several of Transport for London's (TfL) street trees had been infected TfL had been notified. The Superintendent clarified that the key risk associated with Massaria was an increased risk that limbs could drop off. The extra costs associated with Massaria related to survey work to identify limbs likely to drop from infected trees.

### RECEIVED

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

A Member queried how the City's Open Spaces would address the emerging Neighbourhood Forums that had arisen from the Localism Bill. The Director advised that every case may be different and consequently different approaches may need to be taken on different Open Spaces. In response to a query from the Chairman, the Director advised that a report detailing general advice with regard to Neighbourhood Forums could be submitted to the Committee for consideration in the future.

### 12. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

### 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 as follows:-

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Paragraphs in Schedule</u>
12A	
14	3
15&16	-

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2012 were approved.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items.

**The meeting ended at 1.24 pm**

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Chairman

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