

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD**

**HELD AT 6.45 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2009**

**COMMITTEE ROOM, M72 7TH FLOOR TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5  
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Lutfur Rahman	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Clair Hawkins	(Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Joshua Peck	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

**Other Councillors Present:**

**Officers Present:**

Luke Cully	– (Finance Manager)
Michael Rowan	– (Director of Mile End Park)
Zoe Folley	– (Committee Officer, Democratic Services, Chief Executive's)

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/2009**

The Democratic Services Officer, opened the meeting and requested nominations for the election of Chair of the Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09. Councillor A. Choudhury nominated Councillor L. Rahman to the position. There being no further nominations, it was:

**Resolved**

That Councillor L. Rahman be elected Chair of the King George's Field Charity Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09

**COUNCILLOR L. RAHMAN IN THE CHAIR**

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/2009**

The Chair requested nominations for the election of Vice-Chair of the Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09. Councillor A. Ullah nominated Councillor C. Hawkins for the position. There being no further nominations, it was:

**Resolved**

That Councillor C. Hawkins be elected Vice - Chair of the King George's Fields Charity Board for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09.

**3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

Councillor Sirajul Islam, Deputy Leader of the Council  
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed, Lead Member Culture  
Councillor Anwara Ali, Lead Member Health and Wellbeing

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Marc Francis, Lead Member Housing and Development.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared.

**5. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted minutes of the King George's Fields Charity Board held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2007 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

**6. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**7. TERMS OF REFERENCE INCLUDING ROLE AND DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS (TO FOLLOW) (KGFCB/001/089)**

Reasons for Special Urgency reported and agreed.

Suki Binjal (Interim Legal Services Manager) introduced the report setting out the back ground in respect of King George's Field Charitable Trust. The report advised that the Council was a trustee for two Charities:

- (i) King George's Field, Mile End; and
- (ii) King George's Field, Stepney (Tredegar Square, Bow)

The report also outlined the role of Councillors when acting as trustee of the Charities. Also tabled at the meeting was a map highlighting the areas under the remit of the King George's Field Charitable Trust.

In considering the report the Board discussed the following:

- In relation to the identifications maps tabled at the meeting, it was noted that a Go Cart facility also formed part of the Trust;
- Confirmed that the King George's Field in Stepney Green had always formed part of the Trust;
- In disposing any charitable land, the Board would be under a duty to ensure the disposal directly benefited the Charity and was for charitable purposes only;
- Reference was made to Cross Rail, who it was understood, were developing plans which may affect sections of the Stepney Green gardens under the remit of the Trust. The Members of the Board expressed concern that Cross Rail wished to CPO the charitable land;
- The Board stressed the need for it to register its views regarding the status of the land with Cross Rail to ensure they were aware of the Charitable status of the land and that it could only be used for Charitable purposes;
- Ms Binjal to check with officers to clarify the position regarding cross rail. Also to check whether this issue had been raised in the petition lodged by the Local Authority during the Cross Rail consultation.

**ACTION:** Interim Head of Legal Services Manager (S. Binjal)

In response to the recommendations within the report, the Board expressed broad support for the proposals to amalgamate the Mile End and Tredegar Square charities.

In considering the recommendations:

- The Chair considered that the current governance arrangements had served the Charity well. However, other alternative arrangements should be explored;
- Given the success of the current model, the Chair considered that the Membership arrangements contained in the current scheme does not necessarily need to be revised.

Taking in account the above points, the Board requested that a further report be written and be brought back for its consideration;

The report should also:

- (i) Identify alternative governance schemes;
- (ii) Clarify the land under the remit of the Trust;

- (iii) What it may be used for;
- (iv) Clarify the financial duties and disposal duties of Trustees;

It was agreed that the report would be prepared for an April 2009 meeting of the Board.

**Resolved:**

1. That, the existing Governing Document for the Charity Board be reviewed and the proposed changes to the document be brought back to the Board for its approval;
2. That the Mile End and Tredegar Square charities be amalgamated and a further report be brought back to the Board for its approval covering the issues discussed in the above minute namely:
  - (i) Confirmation of the issues raised in the petition lodged by the Authority during the Cross Rail consultation;
  - (ii) Whether the issues regarding the Charitable status of the Trust's land had been raised with Cross Rail;
  - (iii) Clarification of the financial duties and disposal duties of the Trustees;
  - (iv) Confirmation of the Board's Assets (Including land and financial status)
3. That the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services) be authorised to commence discussions with the Charities Commission with a view to agreeing an amended governing document which would address the concerns raised in paragraph 4 of the report

**Action by:**

**ASSISTANCE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

Interim Legal Services Manager, Legal Services (S. Binjal)

**8. SUKI BINJAL LEGAL ADVISOR TO THE BOARD.**

It was reported that this would be the last meeting Suki Binjal would be attending as she would be leaving the Authority in early February 2009. The Board thanked Suki for all her hard work in carrying out her duties and wished her well for the future.

**8.1 Mile End Park & King George's Fields Charitable Trust Annual Accounts 2007/2008, & Approval to Appoint External Auditors (KGFCB/02/089)**

Mr Luke Cully, Finance Manager, introduced the report which set out the annual accounts for the Mile End Park and King George's Fields Charitable Trust for the 2007/2008 financial year.

It also requested that the Audit Commission be appointed as the external auditors of the Trusts Accounts.

Mr Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park, provided the Committee with an overview of the activities at the Park over the last period. He reported that so far the budget for this year was on target.

In considering the accounts, concern was expressed at the lack of information regarding the gardens in Stepney (pg 21 of the agenda). It was **Agreed** that a detailed breakdown of the accounts for the Stepney Green Gardens would be provided with additional commentary.

**ACTION:** L. Cully, Finance Manager, (Resources)

The Board also asked about the accounts for Green Bridge in Mile End Park (pg 12 of the report). They asked for details of the rent review intervals and the levels of rental income generated by the bridge. L Cully **Agreed** to provide this information.

The Board also requested that the Accounts and the Budget for the Trust should be submitted to the Board on a more regular basis. And it was **Agreed** that this proposal would be investigated as part of the governance review.

**Resolved:**

1. That the Final Accounts for the Mile End Park and King George's Fields Charitable Trust for the 2007/2008 financial year, attached at Appendix A to the report KGFCB/02/089) be agreed; and
2. That the Audit Commission be appointed as the external auditors of the annual Trust accounts.

**Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITIES LOCALITIES AND CULTURE**  
Finance Manager, (Resources) L. Cully,

The meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

Chair,  
King George's Field Charity Board