

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

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

**HELD AT 5.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2009**

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

**Members Present:**

Councillor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Leader of the Council)
Councillor Joshua Peck (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Leader of the Council)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Resources and Performance)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Lead Member, Culture and Leisure)
Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Rania Khan	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Lead Member, Employment and Skills)
Councillor Abdal Ullah	(Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)

**Other Councillors Present:**

None

**Officers Present:**

Owen Whalley	– (Service Head Major Projects, Development & Renewal)
David Galpin	– (Head of Legal Services (Community))
Bob Bennett	– (Crossrail Project Manager)
Hugh Chambers	– (Information and Equalities Officer, Development and Renewal)
Zoe Folley	– (Committee Officer, Democratic Services Chief Executive's)
	–

**COUNCILLOR L. RAHMAN (CHAIR) IN THE CHAIR**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

Councillor Abdul Asad, Lead Member, Children's Services.

Councillor Anwara Ali Lead Member, Health and Wellbeing.

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

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Councillor Joshua Peck** declared a **prejudicial interest** in Agenda item 5.1 (Stepping Stones Farm – Crossrail Implications). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained references to Crossrail and Councillor Peck's employees had a contract with Crossrail. Councillor Peck left the meeting prior to the consideration of this item.

## 3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

### **RESOLVED**

That the unrestricted minutes of the King George's Fields Charity Board held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

## 4. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

There were no deputations or petitions.

## 5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

### 5.1 Stepping Stones Farm – Crossrail Implications (KGFCB/05/089)

Mr Owen Whalley (Service Head Major Projects, Development and Renewal) introduced the report. He commented:

- At the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2009, the Board noted the impact of Crossrail upon the land owned by the King George's Field Charity Board and the approach being taken by officers to mitigate those impacts. Public consultation was now taking place on the proposed pitch replacement at Stepney Green and work is planned to start on site in January 2010. However because of the urgent need to gain access to part of the Steeping Stones Farm to undertake borehole investigations, mitigation works on the farm land will need to commence within the next few weeks. To facilitate this, it was necessary for the Board to grant a licence to Crossrail to carry out the works;
- The licence would deal with two matters. The first would be to allow Crossrail to enter on part of the farm site that would form part of the

construction site in order to undertake the borehole investigation. The second part of the licence would allow Crossrail to carry out mitigation works to the farm in accordance with the works specified in Appendix 2 of the report;

- A similar licence would also need to be granted to progress the works to replace the Stepney Green Football Pitch and associated facilities.

Mr Whalley also reported that the Stepping Stones Farm Charity, which originally occupied the site, appeared to be effectively moribund not having submitted any accounts to the Charity Commission since 2001/02. Because of this it was necessary to terminate their occupation of the Farm and to grant a new licence to the new occupiers, the Stepping Stones Farm Company, who were managing and maintaining the Farm in an effective manner. The licence would be granted for a 12 month period to enable the new company to continue to manage the Farm during the period in which Crossrail will be undertaking the work.

To clarify matters, the Board was also requested to empower officers to act on behalf of the Board in ensuring that the replacement facilities were carried out in accordance with the Parliamentary undertakings and the requirements in the Licenses.

In response to the presentation, the Board noted the following points:

- officers had meet with representatives from the Stepping Stones Farm Charity on a number of occasions. During which, the representatives made a number of claims and counter claims about activity on the Farm. The findings in respect of the Charity were based on evidence obtained from the Charity, the Council's records, the Charity Commission and the Greater London Authority;
- the Stepping Stones Farm Company comprised six Directors. Four of whom lived in the Borough. One lived in Hackney and one in Hounslow.

The Board also made the following points:

- Councillor Oliur Rahman, speaking as a ward member for the Stepney Green area, reported that both he and the other ward Councillors for the Stepney Green area had listen to the views of the local residents. Many local residents used and valued the Stepping Stones Farm. Given this, he considered it essential that the Governing Board comprised members of the local community rather than people from outside of the Borough;
- Councillor Abdul Ullah also considered that the composition of the Farm's Governing Board should be made up of members of the local community. It was necessary to ensure local people were involved in the decision making process and it was open and transparent;
- The Board considered that serious attempts should be made to ensure the new Trust was managed by members of the local community.

Consequently, in view of the concerns, the Board considered that the consideration of the plans to grant the Stepping Stones Farm Company a licence for the management of the Stepping Stones Farm should be deferred pending further discussions with the local ward members for the area.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the positive progress being made on the mitigation works to Stepping Stones Farm as described in paragraph 3.5 and set out at Appendix 2 of the report (KGFCB/05/089), be noted;
2. That licences be granted to Crossrail to enter on the land at Stepping Stones Farm and Stepney Green to commence the mitigation works and borehole investigations at Stepping Stones Farm, and to undertake enabling works at Stepney Green as referred to in paragraphs 4.2 – 4.4 of the report (KGFCB/05/089);
3. That the occupation of Stepping Stones Farm by the Stepney Stepping stones Farm Charity be terminated with immediate effect for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.4 and Appendix 1 of the report (KGFCB/05/089),
4. That officers of the Council be authorised to act on behalf of the Board to negotiate the terms of licence agreements with Crossrail, and undertake all other actions in accordance with the aims and objectives of the King George's Field Charity;
5. That upon the agreement of terms for licence agreements with Crossrail, such licences be granted to Crossrail; and
6. That the consideration of the proposal to grant a licence for the management of the Stepping Stones Farm Company for a 12-month period be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Board pending further consultation with the local Ward Members.
7. That following the completion of the Crossrail works, the Council's Communities, Localities and Cultural Directorate be authorised to act as agents on behalf of the Board to manage Stepping Stones Farm and provide regular reports to the Board including make holding arrangements to receive any funding arising from the grant of a licenses to Crossrail as detailed in resolutions 2 & 5 above;

**Action by:**

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND RENEWAL  
(A. DALVI)**

Service Head Major Projects, Development and Renewal, (O. Whalley)  
Cross Rail Project Manager (B. Bennett)

**6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

No urgent business was submitted.

The meeting ended at 5.30 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Lutfur Rahman  
King George's Field Charity Board