

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD

HELD AT 4PM ON WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2012

**ROOM M72, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON,
E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Mayor)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed (Vice-Chair)	(Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Rofique U Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration)
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Rabina Khan	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Oliur Rahman	(Cabinet Member for Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Officers Present:

Stephen Adams	– Finance & Resources Manager, CLC
Ms J. Bell	– Head of Legal Services, Environment
Kevin Pulsford	– Principal Asset Manager, D&R
Michael Rowan	– Director of Mile End Park
Evelyn Akoto	– Democratic Services

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Rabina Khan.

RESOLVED

That the apologies for absence be noted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of personal or prejudicial interests were made.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

As part of matters arising, the Mayor asked officers to provide him with information on the Zeera restaurant, namely the last rent review and information on the break laws and why it was not activated. In response, the

Director of Mile End Park referred members to page 110 of the report. Members were also informed that the next rent review will be in June 2012.

A member raised concerns that the first agenda contained inaccurate information, and highlighted that making such mistakes can have serious consequences for the council.

The Mayor reiterated the caution and asked that officers ensure reports are accurate before circulation, as it can be challenged.

Officers noted the concern.

RESOLVED

That the unrestricted minutes of the meeting of the King George's Field Charity Board held on 20 July 2011 and 23 November 2011 be agreed as correct records, and the Chair be authorised to sign them accordingly.

4. KING GEORGE'S FIELDS CHARITABLE TRUST ANNUAL ACCOUNTS, 2010/2011 (KGFCB 006/1112)

Stephen Adams, Finance & Resources Manager CLC, presented the King George's Fields Trust annual accounts to the committee.

The report provides details of the annual accounts of the King George's Field Mile End and King George's Field Tredegar Square charities for the 2010/2011 financial year. It also contains information in respect of various questions that members raised about the annual reports at their previous meeting on 23rd November, 2011.

With regards to the leisure centre contract with GLI and the maintenance of Mile End Park, a member asked about how the cost was calculated.

Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park clarified that the information provided in the report (Repairs and Maintenance) is solely to do with ground maintenance and not linked to the GLI contract. He continued that the information does not cover the actual leisure centre itself and proposed bringing back a separate report on Mile End Stadium for the committee.

Action: Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park

A member asked whether officers were conceding that bad debts will not be recovered. The Finance and Resources Manager, CLC replied that provision has been made in the account to recover the outstanding amount.

With regards to Mile End stadium, the Mayor suggested that the expenditure should be contained within the income. In response Jill Bell, Head of Legal Services (Environment) stated that this had not been the case in the past but that consideration needed to be given to reflecting the income derived from the Leisure Centre and adjacent facilities which are on Trust Land rather than

on the Council subsidising the grounds maintenance. She further stated that there will be in discussions with the Charity Commission to obtain further guidance.

The Mayor asked officers to undertake further research and provide him with a report.

Action: Jill Bell, Head of Legal Services

A member asked why money can not be spent on other parks, the Head of Legal Services (Environment) informed the committee that the money derived from Trust assets should be ring fenced and not used for other parks but only for Trust purposes. At the moment the council is subsidising, and paying towards ground maintenance. We need to look at income generated from the leisure centre and get to the position that it is self financing.

RESOLVED that

1. The explanations of the composition of the various figures in the annual accounts for King George's Field, Mile End, as set out in paragraph 3.3 of this report, and in Appendices 3 to 7 be noted.
 2. The annual report and accounts for the King George's Field, Mile End Charity (registered number 1077859) for the 2010/2011 financial year set out at Appendix 1 be agreed.
 3. The annual report and accounts for the King George's Field Tredegar Square charity (registered number 1088999) for the 2010/2011 financial year set out at Appendix 2 be agreed; and
 4. Authorisation be given to the mayor to sign the annual reports and accounts for submission to the Charity Commission
- 5. POTENTIAL MERGER OF KING GEORGE'S FIELDS MILE END CHARITY AND KING GEORGE'S FIELDS STEPNEY TREDEGAR SQUARE CHARITY**

Jill Bell, the Head of Legal Services (Environment) presented the report to the committee. She informed the committee that the merger can be achieved, but questioned what benefits can be derived from it. The guidance from the Charity Commission is that money from one Charity cannot be spent on another, which was one of the main drivers for amalgamation. What the merger will however allow, is the ability to submit one set of account for both charities.

The Mayor commented that the rationale behind the push for amalgamation was mainly administrative, as it will allow the committee to look at both sets of account at the same time. The Head of Legal Services (Environment) replied that this can be done now. She further explained that if the merger

was to go ahead it will take nine months to complete and require a public consultation.

A member asked about the possibility of changing the Charity's name. The Head of Legal Services (Environment) replied that permission would have to be sought from the Charity Commission, but that the name 'King Georges Trust' will have to remain in the new title.

RESOLVED

1. That the report be noted; and
2. That officers undertake further research and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

6. EXCLUSIVE USE OF MILE END STADIUM AS A GAMES TIME TRAINING VENUE BY THE UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park presented the paper which proposes the use of Mile End Stadium as a Games Time Training Venue by the United States of America Olympic Committee (USOC).

During discussions a member raised concern over the possibility of heightened security in the area and the possible disruption to local people. In response the Head of Legal Services (Environment), stated that there will undoubtedly be rigorous security in the stadium, but the leisure centre will remain open to the public.

The Mayor commented that the whole of London will experience heighten security with Mile End being no exception, however efforts will be made to ensure that local lives are not unreasonably disrupted.

RESOLVED

1. That King George's Fields Charity Board confirm its support for the USOC to have exclusive use of Mile End Stadium as a Games Time Training Venue from the 16th July - 15th August 2012 and to authorise signing of the agreement.

7. ANY OTHER SECTION ONE BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

There were no other businesses.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, under the provision of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the

press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting for the consideration of the Section Two business on the grounds that it contains information defined as Exempt in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

9. EXEMPT MINUTES

This item was considered in closed session.

10. LEASING OF SHOP UNIT 558 UNDER THE GREEN BRIDGE MILE END PARK

The item was considered in closed session.

11. GREEN BRIDGE COMMERCIAL UNITS - TENANCY DETAILS

The item was considered in closed session.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 4:30pm

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