

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD

HELD AT 6.20 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

Members Present in Person:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman	
Councillor Maium Talukdar	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)
Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
Councillor Shafi Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency)
Councillor Abu Talha Chowdhury	(Cabinet Member for Safer Communities)
Councillor Kamrul Hussain	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation)
Councillor Abdul Wahid	(Cabinet Member for Customer Service, Equalities and Social Inclusion)

Apologies:

Councillor Musthak Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Jobs, Enterprise, Skills and Growth)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care)

Officers Present in Person:

Simon Baxter	(Corporate Director Communities)
David Joyce	(Corporate Director, Housing & Regeneration)
Jahur Ali	(Director Leisure and Culture)
Catherine Boyd	(Head of Arts, Parks and Events)
Joanne Dunnyaglo	(Principal Property Lawyer)
Caroline Dzandu	(Senior Estates Surveyor)
Siddiqa Islam	(Interim Director of Regeneration, Housing Supply & Assets)
Jack Painter	(Democratic Services Officer)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None were declared.

2. PUBLIC BENEFIT GUIDANCE

RESOLVED:

1. That the Charity Commission's Public Benefit Guidance be noted.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

That the unrestricted minutes of the Board meeting held on Wednesday 29 May 2024 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 King George's Field Trust audited accounts and annual report 2022/2023

The Chair noted and agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report submitted.

The board received a report that required approval of the audited accounts for 2022/23 and the annual report for 2022/23. The board were told that approval was needed for the accounts and report to be submitted to the Charity Commission which is a legal duty for organisations with a turnover of more than £1million.

The report also provided an update on the current financial position for the Charity and activities delivered in 2024/25 and a governance update for the Board in relation to the latest guidance from the Charity Commission.

The board of the trust considered the report and the Chair of the Trust then moved the recommendations and it was:-

RESOLVED that the Board:

1. Approves the audited accounts 2022/23 for submission to the Charity Commission set out in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.
2. Approves the annual report for 2022/23 for submission to the Charity Commission set out in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.
3. Approves the Letter of Representation from Arnold Hill & Co LLP set out in Appendix 2 of the report submitted.
4. Notes the Management Letter 2023 from Arnold Hill & Co LLP and management response set out in Appendix 3 of the report submitted.
5. Notes the Letter of Ownership Confirmation sign off required by the charity's auditors, Arnold Hill & Co LLP set out in Appendix 4 of the report submitted

from the Mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, before the accounts can be signed off by the charity's auditors.

6. Notes the Letter of Support from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets set out in Appendix 5 of the report submitted.

7. Grants permission to officers to appoint Arnold Hill & Co LLP to audit the accounts for 2023/24.

8. Notes the current financial position for 2024/25 set out in Appendix 6 of the report submitted.

9. Notes the activities update for 2024/25 set out in Appendix 7 of the report submitted.

10. Notes the governance update set out in Appendix 8 of the report submitted.

4.2 King George's Field Trust Investment Programmes

This report provides an overview of proposed investment programmes that would enable the Charity to improve its sports offer, benefiting residents of Tower Hamlets and park users and the allocation of grant funding from Fields in Trust, including potential match funding for the sports improvement programmes at Mile End Park and Stepney Green Park.

The board of the trust considered the report and the Chair of the Trust then moved the recommendations and it was:-

RESOLVED that the board:

1. Notes the proposed investment programme for Mile End Park and Stepney Green Park including options for leveraging in external funding.

2. Agrees the options on the allocation of Fields in Trust funding shown in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

4.3 King George's Field Trust Leases update

The board received a report that provided an update on the lease arrangements for the King George's Field Trust (KGFT) retail and rental units, income from which supports the Charity to maintain park land and amenities for the benefit of Tower Hamlets residents.

It was decided that the board would consider this item with the exclusion of the press and public.

The board were informed by officers that their decision regarding Tenant A could be seen as unreasonable if the matter goes to court in both the delay in arriving at this decision and the decision itself.

The board of the trust considered the report and the comments by officers and the Chair of the Trust then moved the recommendations and it was:-

RESOLVED that the board:

1. Notes the ongoing discussions with "Tenant A" in respect of outstanding arrears and their lease arrangements and rejects the proposal from the tenant to assign their lease and to offset their arrears as part of the proposed lease assignment and asks that officers investigate recovering the lease and remarketing it.
2. Notes the additional information provided in respect of the lease arrangements for "Tenant B".
3. Notes the current position with "Tenant C" and agrees their request to assign their lease.
4. Approves the marketing of an arch located in Mile End Park with the outcome to be reported back to the Board at a future meeting to decide on the tenant to be selected and the granting of the lease.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair MOVED and it was:

RESOLVED

That, under the provisions 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.

6. EXEMPT REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

See minute 4.3.

The meeting ended at 6.50 p.m.

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