

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

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

**HELD AT 5.33 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH 2022**

**ROOM C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE  
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present in Person:**

Councillor Sabina Akhtar  
Mayor John Biggs (Executive Mayor)  
Councillor Candida Ronald (Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)

**Apologies:**

Councillor Asma Begum (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities (Statutory Deputy Mayor))  
Councillor Rachel Blake (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)  
Councillor Danny Hassell (Cabinet Member for Housing)  
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Cabinet Member for Community Safety)  
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith)  
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin (Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion – (Job Share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio))  
Councillor Asma Islam (Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning)  
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury (Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm – (Job Share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio))

**Officers Present in Person:**

Agnes Adrien (Head of Litigation, Legal Services)  
David Knight (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)  
Judith St John (Director, Commissioning and Culture, Children's Services)  
James Thomas (Corporate Director, Children and Culture)

**Officers In Attendance Virtually:**

Kevin Bartle (Corporate Director, Resources & Section 151 Officer)  
Catherine Boyd (Arts and Events Manager)  
Ahsan Khan (Chief Accountant)  
Stephen Shapiro (Head of Asset Management)  
Paul Sammut (Parks Engagement and Projects officer)

Richard Ward

(Interim Head of Contracts and Procurement)

## **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

None were declared.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

### **2.1 Minutes of the Board held on 15 December 2021**

That the unrestricted minutes of the Board meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

### **2.2 Minutes of the Board held on 3 March 2022**

That the unrestricted minutes of the Board meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

## **3. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **3.1 King George's Field Trust Update & Approvals**

The Board considered a report that included **(i)** an update on the submission of the financial and annual reports to the Charity Commission **(ii)** an update on the preparation of the 2020/21 audited accounts: **(iii)** the draft annual report and financial overview for 2021/22. The report also provided an overview of recommendations from the auditors regarding financial and accounting systems and processes for the board's consideration. The main points arising from the questioning arising from on the report maybe summarised as follows:

The Board:

- ❖ **Received** an update on the submission of the annual accounts and reports to the Charity Commission and noted that the annual reports and accounts had been submitted to the Charity Commission on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022.
- ❖ Was **advised** that as the King George's Field Trust is a registered charity it is bound by the legislation for charities and is therefore required to prepare and submit audited accounts to the Charity Commission.
- ❖ **Noted** that **(i)** as part of the 2018/19 and 2019/20 audit several financial/accounting recommendations have been made by the external auditors (Arnold Hill & Co LPP); and **(ii)** approval is now required from the Board for the Council to implement the recommendations as outlined in **Appendix 1**.
- ❖ **Understood** that if it did not consider the aforementioned recommendations from Arnold Hill & Co it would put the King George's Field Trust and the Council as trustee at risk of being in breach of the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)

requirements.

- ❖ **Noted** that with regard to the preparation of the 2020/21 audited accounts and reports to the Charity Commission **(i)** work has now commenced on the audit of the King George's Field Trust accounts for the year ending 2021; and **(ii)** the audit will be undertaken by Arnold Hill & Co who had undertaken the audit of the 2018/19 and 2019/20 accounts.
- ❖ **Noted** that **(i)** the annual reports are being produced in keeping with the requirements of the Charity Commission for those organisations with a turnover of over £1million; **(ii)** an update on the submission of the audited accounts and annual reports for year end 2020/21 will be provided to the Charity Commission.
- ❖ **Noted** that the 2021/22 audited accounts will be prepared for submission in line with the Council's own year-end, close down processes. The statutory deadline for the audited accounts and annual report for 2021/22 will then be uploaded to the Charity Commission website by the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- ❖ **Noted** the **(i)** update on the current financial position; and **(ii)** forecast for the current financial year (2021-22) together with an activity report.

As a result of a full and wide-ranging discussion on the report the Board **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Note** the update on the submission of the 2018/19 and 2019/20 annual audited accounts and reports to the Charity Commission.
2. **Note** the recommendations made by the auditors and give permission to the Corporate Director for Children and Culture and Corporate Director for Resources to implement these recommendations as per the Management Response provided [attached to the report as Appendix 1].
3. **Note** the update on the preparation of the 2020/21 audited accounts and report to the Charity Commission..
4. **Approve** the appointment of Arnold Hill & Co LLP to audit the accounts for 2021/22.
5. **Note** the update on the current financial position and activity update for 2021/22. [**attached to the report as Appendices 2 and 3**].

### 3.2 Stepney City Farm Lease Renewal and Rent Arrears Report

The Board considered a report that (i) sought approval for the renewal of the Stepney City Farm lease; (ii) provided an update on the charity's Green Bridge retail units and the considerations regarding COVID-19 rent relief and rental arrears; and (iii) required a decision as to whether the rent relief is applied.

The Board:

1. **Granted** permission to approve the execution of the Deed of Surrender and Lease for Stepney City Farm; and
2. **Noted** the update on the Green Bridge retail and other commercial units, including arrears, and gave authority to the Corporate Directors

of Children and Culture and for Place to agree the level of relief (if any) to be applied to the maximum level that is provided as set out in **Appendix 1** of the report (exempt).

**4. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**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.

**5. EXEMPT REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Nil items

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

None.

**The meeting ended at 7.57 p.m.**

**Chair - King George's Field Charity Board**