

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE KING GEORGE'S FIELD CHARITY BOARD

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2022

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present in Person:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	
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 Ohid Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Safer Communities)
Councillor Suluk Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Equalities and Social Inclusion)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury	(Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills, and Growth)
Councillor Iqbal Hossain	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation)
Councillor Kabir Hussain	(Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency)

Apologies:

Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
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Officers Present in Person:

Agnes Adrien	(Head of Litigation, Legal Services)
Kevin Bartle	(Interim Corporate Director, Resources & Section 151 Officer)
Catherine Boyd	Interim Head of Arts, Parks, and Events
Amy Jackson	Head of Mayor's Office - Strategy and Performance
Matthew Mannion	Head of Democratic Services
Paul Sammut	Parks Engagement and Projects officer
Judith St John	(Director, Commissioning and Culture, Children's Services)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None were declared.

2. PUBLIC BENEFIT GUIDANCE

The Board received and noted the Public Benefit Guidance and how understanding public benefit helps in running the King George's Field Charity

to know what it means to be a charity, and to function as a charity should. It also helps the trustees to describe and report on their work.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed the unrestricted minutes of the Board meeting held on 8th March 2022 be approved for signing by the Chair as a correct record of proceedings.

4. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

4.1 King George's Field Trust Finance Report June 2022

The Board received a report that sought approval of the audited accounts for 2020/21 and the annual report for 2020/21. The main points considered may be summarised as follows:

The Board **noted** that:

- ❖ The report asked for agreement of the audited accounts for 2020/21 and the annual report for 2020/21.
- ❖ Approval is required in order for the accounts and report to be submitted to the Charity Commission, a legal duty for organisations with a turnover of more than £1million.
- ❖ The accounts for 2020/21 have been independently audited by Arnold Hill & Co LLP in line with the requirements of the Charity Commission for organisations with a turnover of over £1million to publish audited accounts.
- ❖ The accounts are accompanied by an annual report, in keeping with the requirements of the Charity Commission (**Appendix 1 of the report refers**).
- ❖ The report and accounts relate to the King George's Field, Mile End charity which comprises Stepney Green and Whitehorse Road Open Space.
- ❖ King George's Field Mile End had a revenue surplus for the year amounting £79,000, resulting in a carry-forward cumulative unrestricted revenue reserve of £77,000.
- ❖ King George's Field Tredegar Square charity (registered number 1088999) achieved a balanced position. There was £10,000 of expenditure for Repairs and Maintenance related to grounds maintenance.

Accordingly, the Board:

1. **Approved** the audited accounts 2020/21 for submission to the Charity Commission; and
2. **Approved** the annual report for 2020/21 for submission to the Charity Commission.

4.2 Review of Hire Charges King George's Field Trust Report

The Board considered a report seeking approval for a review of hire charges for the Arts and Ecology Pavilions to be agreed by the King George's Field Trust (KGFT) board, which would come into effect for bookings from the 1 April 2023. In addition, this report sought approval for a review of the King George's Field Trust policy regarding subsidised hire charges for use of the Arts and Ecology Pavilions by community groups. The main matters considered maybe summarised as follows:

The Board **noted** that:

- ❖ The Arts and Ecology Pavilions are a significant source of income for KGFT.
- ❖ Costs for operating and maintaining the Arts and Ecology Pavilions are increasing due to rising inflation, increased utility rates and operational costs (including staffing) and therefore a review of the current hire rates is recommended.
- ❖ The hire rates for both pavilions have not been reviewed since 2014 and are now well-established wedding and private hire venues.
- ❖ A review of corporate, commercial, and private hire rates is recommended to ensure that KGFT is offering the pavilions at appropriate hire rates for the client base and activity.
- ❖ It is proposed that the findings of the review, including any recommended increases to hire fees, are presented to the KGFT board in the autumn. If approved, any revised charges would apply to corporate, commercial, and private bookings from 1 April 2023.
- ❖ In parallel to a review of corporate, commercial, and private hires, a review of KGFT's policy on subsidised hire charges is also proposed.
- ❖ In March 2018 a policy for subsidised hire rates for community groups was approved by the KGFT board. (**Appendix 1 of the report refers**). However, since the subsidised hire policy was agreed the charity's financial position has been adversely impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. In addition, there has been a significant increase in maintenance costs in part due to increases in contractor and product costs but also due to the higher level of usage. Casual staff and security costs have also increased. Therefore, a review of the subsidised hire policy is recommended to protect the ongoing viability of the venues and to support the KGFT's revenue streams and delivery of its charitable objectives.
- ❖ If approved, the review for both the hire charges and the subsidised rates, would include reviewing: current and predicted increased utility costs, waste removal costs, enhanced cleaning costs, wear and tear maintenance, replacement (furniture and facilities) staffing and security. In addition, officers would undertake a benchmarking exercise of similar venues and consult with industry experts to ascertain current client trends and expectations regarding price and service offer.

Accordingly, the Board:

1. **Approved** a review of hire charges for the Arts and Ecology Pavilion that would be applied to bookings from 1 April 2023; and
2. **Approved** a review of KGFT's subsidised hire policy for the Arts and Ecology Pavilions.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

As the agenda circulated contained no exempt/confidential reports and there was therefore no requirement to exclude the press and public to allow for its consideration.

6. EXEMPT REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Nil items

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

With no other items for consideration the Trustees noted that the next Board meeting will be on 1st August 2022 at the Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2B.

Finally, the Chair thanked everybody for their attendance and participation in tonight's Board meeting.

The meeting ended at 6.54 p.m.

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