

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

14 February 2017 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors Miss M N Heath (Chairman), N M King and N H Prescott

Residents' Representatives: Mr A Panter (Vice-Chairman), Mr N Band

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors M T Kusneraitis, P I Roberts and Miss J K Sohi

505 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 November 2016 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

506 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors P I Roberts and Miss J K Sohi

507 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

The Committee was updated on management and maintenance issues relation to the Green.

i) Litter Picks

Members were advised that student volunteers from RHUL undertook another litter pick of the Green and woodland. This had been co-ordinated by the Green Space team who provided litter pickers, gloves and bags.

The Englefield Green Village Residents Association was also planning a litter pick of the village, including the Green, for the 4 March. The Green Space team would again be supporting this by providing equipment.

ii) Parking

In January, Officers had received reports that the double yellow lines at the back of the Green had been obscured by leaves and subsequently cars were being parked there. This had resulted in passing traffic mounting the opposite verge and had caused damage to it. The issue of the leaves was reported to the Council's Depot Manager and the Parking team were also informed. The verge damage would be monitored and, if necessary, repaired in the Spring. Officers were asked by the Committee to look at options to deter parking on this verge to prevent further damage using logs or the stones used previously. It was noted that Surrey County Council would be undertaking a parking review in March.

Officers advised the Committee that the recent damage to the barriers at St. Jude's Road had been reported to Surrey County Council and cabling works at Castle Hill would be commencing at the end of February.

508 EVENTS ON THE GREEN

The Committee was advised that the Englefield Green Village Residents Association had applied to the Council to hold the Village Fair on the Green on Saturday 24 June this year. Officers recommended to the Committee that the application be approved, subject to the normal requirements for public liability, risk assessments and event management plans being met

RESOLVED that -

the application from the Englefield Green Residents Association to hold the Village Fair on the Green on Saturday 24 June 2017 be approved subject to the normal requirements

509 OPTIONS TO REGULARISE THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURES ON THE GREEN

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matter in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

At the last meeting of the Committee in November 2016 the Committee requested that Officers reported back to this meeting on options to regularise the various activities and structures on the Green. The issue of various activities and structures being unlawful became an issue in 2012 when Counsel advised that the Scheme of Management 1955 was invalid.

The Committee discussed various options and agreed that the first course of action in relation to this should be to commence consultation with the Crown Estate and also obtain further information and advice from Counsel. Officers would report back to Members information when received and an update report would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee in June.

RESOLVED that -

- i) Officers obtain further information and advice from Counsel; and**
- ii) Officers commence consultation with the Crown Estate**

510 CRICKET SQUARE

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matter in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

At its meeting in November 2016 the Committee resolved that the rope and pins arrangement around the cricket square be removed and requested Officers to consider what other lawful and practical measures could be used to protect the cricket square.

The rope and pins were removed at the beginning of November 2016. Officers had met with Officers of the Englefield Green Cricket Club on two occasions to discuss the matter and the options to protect the cricket square. As discussed with the cricket club and as an initial temporary measure a solid white line was marked around the square and laminated signs were placed around the cricket square stating 'Please respect the cricket square'. The signs had since been replaced by the same wording painted in white onto the grass on each of the four sides of the cricket square and some small boundary flags in each corner. It was hoped that this combination would deter anyone crossing the cricket square.

The Cricket Club had grave concerns about the consequences of the rope and pins being removed. Their main concern was damage to the wicket. They believe if the wicket was not safe then cricket could not be played. Surrey Cricket supported this view and had contacted the Council on the position saying they strongly objected to the removal of the rope and pins on technical grounds. Their representative stated: 'The roping off of a cricket square was done to protect what was a highly technical area of a cricket field (and vitally important to ensuring the game was played in an enjoyable and safe fashion). Roping the area off ensured that the table was not damaged by anything such as dog fouling, walking, running, studded boots (e.g. from football) or any other potential hazard to the table.'

There had already been some damage to the cricket square and members of the Cricket Club had observed the white line being used as a goal line for footballers. They did not believe the present arrangement protected the wicket and once we came into the summer months the incidents of damage would increase.

The Committee wished the Cricket Club to keep them informed over the coming months on the outcome of the current arrangement.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.30pm)