

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

20 June 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

72 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Councillor Miss M N Heath be elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

73 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Mr A Panter be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2017/18.

74 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 February 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

76 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

The Committee was updated on management and maintenance issues relating to the Green and asked to consider future maintenance operations around the Green.

i) Grass Cutting

At its meeting in November 2016 the Committee received a report regarding a trial adjustment to the grass cutting regime that had been implemented. This involved more frequent cuts of the Green itself and collection of the clippings from the grass verges and outlying areas. The aim was to reduce the amount of clippings that were left and eventually washed into the drains.

The Committee noted the improvement to the Green since the trial had commenced and requested Officers continue with the more frequent cutting of the Green and collection of clippings from grass verges and outlying areas.

RESOLVED that –

the more frequent cutting of the Green and collection of clippings from grass verges and outlying areas be continued.

ii) Woodland Management Plan

At its meeting in November a draft woodland management plan had been presented to the Committee. Members had agreed to delay any decision regarding adopting the plan until a site visit. The Committee had now undertaken a site visit where Officers had explained the vision of the management plan, which was to manage the woodland in line with best practice to increase biodiversity and enable local residents to continue to use and enjoy the woodland.

Initially Officers would contact the Surrey Wildlife Trust and establish the cost of undertaking an ecological survey of the woodland area of the Green.

The Committee was supportive of this approach and asked Officers to bring back a report on the progress of the draft plan to the next Committee meeting in October.

RESOLVED that –

- i) Officers contact Surrey Wildlife Trust and establish the cost of undertaking an ecological survey of the woodland area of the Green and notify Chairman and Vice-Chairman of costs;**
- ii) Officers liaise and consult with the Chief Forester at the Crown Estate with proposed work and costings; and**
- iii) Officers report back to the next Committee meeting with progress made on the woodland management plan**

iii) Possible future expenditure

At its meeting in November possible future expenditure had also been discussed. Members had agreed to delay any decision regarding this until a site visit had been undertaken. The two items of possible future expenditure were:

1. Condition of the vehicle barrier onto the Green
2. Condition of the cricket pavilion

The Committee had inspected the vehicle barrier during their site visit. The barrier needed to be painted and Officers would arrange for this work to be undertaken.

The Committee was updated on various improvements which had been carried out in the cricket pavilion. The Cricket Club had further plans for improvement of the Cricket Pavilion in the future.

Members were also advised that there were a number of weeds in the grass across the Green and the Committee was asked to consider if the use of herbicides would be appropriate in controlling these. The Committee agreed that Officers did not need to arrange for the Green to be treated with herbicides at this time

RESOLVED that –

- i) Officers to arrange for the vehicle barrier onto the Green to be painted; and**
- ii) Officers did not need to arrange for the Green to be treated with herbicides at this time**

iv) Parking at Southern end of the Green

The Committee was advised that concern had recently been expressed by a number of residents about parking at the Southern end of the Green, close to the Barley Mow pub. Surrey County Council was currently undertaking their Runnymede 2017 parking review and representations had been made regarding parking in this location. A County Council report on the parking review was due to be presented to the Runnymede Local Committee at its meeting on 3 July 2017. A copy of that report was available on the Local Committee's webpage.

In January, Officers had received reports that the double yellow lines at the back of the Green were obscured by leaves and cars were being parked there, resulting in passing traffic mounting the opposite verge and causing damage to it. The issue of 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. Pot holes that had appeared in the road to the rear of the Green had been reported to Surrey County Council.

77 EVENTS ON THE GREEN

The Committee was informed that Officers had received an application from Carters Steam Fair for their annual visit to the Green. Carters Steam Fair hoped to arrive and start setting up on Tuesday 26 September and would depart on Tuesday 3 October. The Fair would be open on Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October. The Committee was supportive of this event, however, concerns were raised regarding the parking when the fair was on, particularly at the top of Middle Hill. Officers advised the Committee that any traffic control measures would need to be arranged by Carters Steam Fair in consultation with the Police.

RESOLVED that –

Carters Steam Fair be granted permission to use the Green subject to the usual conditions and Carters Steam Fair be requested to consult with the Police regarding temporary traffic control measures.

78 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 its meeting in February 2017 the Committee requested that Officers obtained further information and advice from Counsel and to commence consultation with the Crown Estate.

The Committee was advised on the latest advice from Counsel regarding options to regularise the various activities and structures on the Green.

The Committee discussed various options in relation to enhancing the use of the Green for everyone but were mindful of the need to maintain the condition of the Cricket square. In order to facilitate this it was agreed that Officers draw up a code of management for the Green and a scheme for further improvements for consideration at the next Committee meeting in October.

RESOLVED that –

Officers draw up a code of management for the Green and a scheme for further improvements

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 9.00pm)