

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

26 June 2019 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Heath, M Kusneraitis and J Sohi

Residents' Representatives: Mr N Bromilow

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors N King, N Prescott and Mr A Panter

91. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Councillor N King be elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

92. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Councillor M Kusneraitis be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2019/20.

Following the elections it was agreed that Councillor M Heath would chair this meeting.

93. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26 February 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors N King, N Prescott and Mr A Panter

95. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

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

Maintenance of the grass surface

At the last meeting, the Committee discussed the condition of the grass surface and asked Officers to provide two costed proposals. The first being a programme of work to improve the condition of the grass in the shorter term and the second a longer term programme of work to maintain that standard. The Committee was advised that prior to specifying any

treatment it was necessary to establish what was causing the poor grass cover across certain areas of the Green. It had already been established that the ground was compacted in places which prevented proper drainage and restricted grass vitality. This was already being tackled by annual vertidrainage which would break up the compaction over time. The availability of nutrients in the soil and acidity levels also impacted on grass growth and, as these were unknown, tests were undertaken. The tests established that the ground was both deficient in the number of nutrients and was more acid than was ideal.

The Committee was advised that therefore the proposal for the initial, short term treatment was focussed on applying a lime based product, to reduce the acidity, and then fertilising to bring the nutrient levels up.

Longer term, the proposal was to repeat the soil test in the late Summer to establish whether the acidity had been sufficiently reduced and whether further fertilisation was necessary. If necessary, the treatments could be repeated. In the Autumn the Green could be re-seeded to fill in any bare patches. The reason for delaying this until the Autumn was that the young grass was unlikely to survive any hot dry spells during the Summer. The established annual programme of vertidrainage and scarification would continue for the time being. It was noted that none of the proposals affected the Cricket Square.

The Committee received approximate costs for the suggested treatments and discussed various options regarding the ongoing maintenance. It was agreed that the best approach was for Committee Members and Officers to meet on the Green with a view to drawing up a Green Maintenance Plan. With regards to re-sowing the grass whilst Members were generally supportive of this, as this would be undertaken in the Autumn, the decision should be made after the site visit.

Mr Bromilow highlighted the unique character and setting of the Green and in view of this he considered that it deserved more than periodic, sport-pitch maintenance with mechanical processes, it needed some specific, far more focussed attention to treat the whole Green.

RESOLVED that –

- i) Officers meet the Committee on the Green with a view to drawing up a Green Maintenance Plan; and**
- ii) Officers be given authorisation to re-sow the Green later in the year after a site visit and approval from Chair and Vice Chair following consultation with all Members of the Committee**

Site Security

At the last meeting it was agreed that consideration should be given to widening the ditch adjacent to the part of St.Judes's Road and creating a small bund alongside to make work had now been completed. It was reported that two wooden posts would be installed adjacent to the wooden bridge by the layby. There was, however, concern raised regarding whether the wooden posts in situ were tall/strong enough. The possibility of obtaining taller composite posts with internal steel strips was discussed. Mr Bromilow would look at possible sources and advise Officers accordingly.

Woodland Management Plan

The Committee was asked to approve adoption of the Woodland Management Plan. Members of the Committee had received a number of updates on the production of the Management Plan and, in particular the suite of ecological surveys which was used to establish the baseline data for the draft plan. The Crown Estates Chief Forester had also been involved and had walked the woodland with Officers and commented positively on the content of the draft plan. The draft plan was very positively received by the Committee and they fully supported its implementation.

RESOLVED that –

- i) The Woodland Management should be adopted; and**
- ii) Officers commission work to the woodland as prescribed in the Woodland Plan**

Cricket Club Improvements

The Committee was advised that the Cricket Club had been unable to provide costed proposals for improvements and repairs that the Committee might want to consider supporting. Members of the Committee considered it would be beneficial for a Member of the Cricket Club to attend the next meeting of the Committee to discuss the Cricket Clubs repair needs and aspirations.

CCTV cameras

The Committee was advised that Officers had been liaising with colleagues in Safer Runnymede and Community Development regarding the possible installation of a CCTV camera on the Green. Decisions on whether or not the Council should deploy CCTV cameras in a particular locality were based on the levels of recorded anti-social behaviour and/or crime. Members were advised that reported incidents of crime and ASB in the locality of the Green were low. Officers reported that they had met with the Council's Community Safety Manager on site and various options were discussed for installation of CCTV. However, due to various issues, no feasible structures for installation of CCTV could be identified.

The Committee therefore agreed that any further discussion or/and decision should be considered at a future meeting following the site visit.

It was noted that parking problems remained an issue and whilst CCTV could not be used for parking enforcement it would aid reporting. It was agreed that the Chairman along with Officers should write to Surrey County as soon as possible regarding parking around the Green.

RESOLVED that –

- i) Discussion/decision on CCTV to be addressed at a future meeting following site visit; and**
- ii) Chairman/Officers to write to Surrey County Council as soon as possible to ask for parking restrictions around the Green**

**to be reviewed as part of the Surrey Highways Borough
review**

96. OPTIONS TO REGULARISE THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND STRUCTURES ON
THE GREEN

The Committee was advised that due to a delay in receiving advice from Counsel and several members of the Committee sending apologies for this meeting. The Chairman had decided that this item should be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee on 29 October 2019. However, a special meeting in September would be considered if deemed necessary.

(The meeting ended at 8.24 pm)

Chairman