

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

26 February 2020 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors N King (Chairman) M Kusneraitis (Vice-Chairman)
N Prescott and J Sohi

Residents' Representatives: Mr A Panter, Mr N Bromilow

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor M Heath

509 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 October 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

510 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor M Heath

511 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Prescott declared a non-pecuniary interest on item 5 (iii) (Cricket) as his children attend Bishopsgate School. Councillor Prescott remained in the room, did not take part in the discussion and abstained from the vote.

512 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN

The Committee was updated on management and maintenance of the Green.

Maintenance of the grass surface

At the last meeting the Committee approved a series of maintenance operations that would improve the grass surface of the Green and outlying areas. These works included the application of a selective weed killer and fertiliser across the Green, which had been carried out in November. However, a subsequent period of very wet weather affected the efficacy of the weed killer and it had very limited impact. The contractor used guaranteed its efficacy and therefore would repeat the treatment in May, when the weather conditions improved, at no additional cost.

Members were advised that soluble iron was due to be applied to the Green next week which would kill the moss. The Green would also be re-fertilised next week. The scarification would be undertaken mid to late March with reseeding then taking place in late March. Works undertaken would be reviewed in July/August. Officers advised that where the ditch had been extended there were some stony areas, therefore a stone pick would be undertaken prior to any strimming work taking place.

CCTV

The Committee was advised that Officers and Members of the Committee had recently met with the Safer Runnymede Manager to discuss possible locations and costings of both installation and running of CCTV monitored by the Safer Runnymede team. The Committee felt the costs were higher than they had anticipated so therefore, other CCTV options would be explored, and a report on all options would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee in June.

Site Security

Members of the Committee had, in early February received the costs and budget implications of installing the composite plastic and steel core posts recommended for use around the Green. At the last meeting authority to proceed with the replacement of existing wooden posts with these more secure posts had been delegated to Officers in consultation with the Chairman. The Committee was advised that, as Members of the Committee had responded positively to the proposals, the order had now been placed and Officers were waiting for the date for installation. Officers would advise the Committee when this date had been set.

Field gate

Officers advised the Committee that after further discussions, the gate manufacturer and the supplier had agreed to fit an enhanced locking mechanism to the gate and this work had now been completed. Officers would look at the soil around the gate to ascertain if security could be improved.

Verges around the Green

Members of the Committee had requested that consideration be given to whether kerbstones should be installed to prevent damage to grass verges in certain areas around the Green. Officers presented to the Committee images of damaged verges and cost of installation of kerbstones. The Committee agreed that there was substantial damage to the verges but having received the costs of installation of kerbstones it was agreed that Surrey County Council should be initially be approached for the funding.

RESOLVED that –

Councillor Prescott to discuss the installation and funding of kerb stones at the next Runnymede Joint Committee

Speed limit on St. Jude's Road

Members of the Committee had requested that consideration be given to whether the speed limit on St. Jude's Road, alongside the Green, should be reduced and other traffic calming measures be introduced to improve safety on this stretch of road. The Committee was advised that any requests for such traffic calming measures, would be subject to assessment and decision by Surrey County Council, as the Highway Authority. The Committee discussed various possible traffic calming measures and agreed that Surrey County Council should be approached for an assessment to be carried out.

RESOLVED that –

The Head of Green Space be authorised to approach Surrey County Council to ask for St. Jude’s Road, adjacent to the Green to be assessed for traffic calming measures

513 EVENTS ON THE GREEN

The Committee was advised that Carters Steam Fair had made an application to use the Green in September. They proposed to come onto the Green on Tuesday 22 September, operate the fair on the following Saturday, between 12pm and 11pm, and Sunday, between 12pm and 9pm, then depart on Tuesday 29 September. The Committee was fully supportive of the application. The Steam Fair was always well attended, and Carters always respected the Green and made any necessary repairs to the Green prior to leaving.

The Englefield Green Village Residents Association had submitted an application for use of the Green on Saturday 20 June for the annual village fair. The Committee fully supported this application by the EGVRA which was a good community event.

Officers advised the Committee that an application had been received from a local resident who wished to organise a classic car show on the Green in August. Whilst the Committee felt this would be a popular event, they considered that given all the horticultural work taking place on the Green this year, the number of cars the event would bring onto the Green was of concern. Officers suggested that the Runnymede Pleasure Grounds may be a good alternative and the Committee concurred with this approach. Both Officers and the Committee fully supported this charity event and wanted to encourage the applicant to reapply to use the Green next year if the event was successful as the horticultural works on the Green would then be completed.

The Council had been approached by the Director of Sport, Clubs & Activities at Bishopsgate School, seeking permission to use the Green to support their efforts to get more children, both boys and girls, playing cricket. Traditionally, only boys had played but there was now a drive to encourage more girls to participate. The School did not have capacity at its site to accommodate this so they were seeking permission to use the cricket outfield every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during the summer term. This use would be subject to a formal agreement with the Council and the School had already provided some detail in that they would not require an additional strip to be cut or any markings on the ground. The Committee were fully supportive of the School using the Green particularly as it encouraged active lifestyles for both boys and girls.

RESOLVED that –

- i) **Carters Steam Fair and the Englefield Green Residents Association be permitted to use the Green as set out in the report;**
- ii) **The Classic Car Show not be permitted to use the Green in August this year; and**
- iii) **Bishopsgate School be permitted to use the Green on two afternoons a week between April and July as set out in the report.**

514 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.

The Committee was advised that the Council's Solicitors had approached the Crown Estate on the approved draft code of Management and reported that, since they did not have a management interest, the Crown were content not to be involved. Officers presented to the Committee anticipated legal costs and asked the Committee to advise Officers on how to proceed. The Committee raised a couple of points which required clarification, so the Council's Solicitor was asked to obtain clarification on these matters and relay back to the Members of the Committee within the next two weeks. An additional special meeting of the Englefield Green Committee may then need to be scheduled in order to progress the matter.

RESOLVED that –

The Council's solicitor be authorised to seek clarification on the points raised by the Committee and relay back to the Members of the Committee when obtained.

(The meeting ended at 9.26 pm)

Chairman