

Runnymede Borough CouncilEnglefield Green CommitteeTuesday, 21 February 2023 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors N Prescott (Chairman), N Bromilow (Vice-Chairman), A Berardi, M Heath, A King and N King.

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors S Brisby.

In attendance: Councillors .

518 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 January 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

519 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Brisby (Resident's Representative)

520 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

521 Maintenance and Management of the Green

The Committee was updated on progress on management and maintenance of the Green since the Englefield Green meeting in October 2022.

Wildflower planting

Officers reported that the Council's Green Spaces Manager had been liaising with members of the Committee regarding location and choice of wildflowers. Once purchased the flowers would be passed to volunteers for planting. In order to expedite it was agreed that delegated authority be given to agree a wildflower planting regime.

Event applications

The Committee was asked to consider two event applications which had recently been received.

The first application was from James Beach. The application was for a funfair to be held on the Green from 19th to 21st May 2023. Expected attendees were in the region of 500. The Committee considered the application. Members recalled previous damage caused to the Green caused by the funfair. It was noted that no business case had been submitted along with the application to allay the Committee's previous concerns so therefore Members asked Officers to reject the application on this occasion.

The second application was from the Englefield Green Village Residents Association (EGVRA) to hold the Englefield Green Village Fair on the Green on Saturday 24th June 2023. The fair would run between 12 noon and 5pm. Set up would be on Friday 23rd June and the morning of the 24th. The event would be taken down between 5pm and 7pm on

the 24th. The Committee was fully supportive of EGVRA holding the village fair on the Green again this year. The fair was always well supported and enjoyed by local residents.

New Street lamp located on Englefield Green

The Committee was advised that the post thought to be a new streetlamp had now been removed. Officers had liaised with Surrey County Council who had confirmed that the post was intended to support a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) and not a streetlight. A future consultation exercise would take place to agree a suitable alternative location.

Additional grounds maintenance charges and arrangements post Idverde contract

Since the mutual termination of the Idverde Grounds Maintenance contract in November 2022 Environmental Services teams were currently being built up. A new in-house team would deliver grounds maintenance across the Borough including Englefield Green.

Any additional work requested by the Committee would incur additional charges as stated in paragraph 2.8 of the report. The Committee was advised that any additional work required 1 months' notice. Whilst Officers would do their best to accommodate additional work requests it would depend on the work demands on Officers at that time.

A member of the Committee reported that the leaf clearance had been unsatisfactory and subsequently the grass had been damaged. The Committee was advised that barring manned parks Englefield Green was the only Green Space to receive leaf clearing.

Officers could arrange for a second leaf clearance, but the cost would be £200 as detailed in paragraph 2.8 of the report.

Given the damage to the surface of the Green due to falling leaves the Committee discussed the viability of re-seeding the grass. Officers were asked to obtain costings for this and circulate to all Members of the Committee by email for consideration.

Additional posts

The Committee was advised that Officers had received the map indicating the proposed positioning of additional posts. Officers advised the Committee that the 1955 lease granted by the Crown stated that the Council must not 'break up the surface of the said land without the previous consent in writing from the Lessor'.

Therefore, the installation of any additional posts would require consent from the Crown Estate. An increase in the number of posts could qualify as a breach of the statutory duty to keep the Green open and unenclosed. Officers would review the location map and consider the impact and statutory duties.

Englefield Green Member Working Party

The establishment of an Englefield Green Member Working Party (MWP) was fully supported by the Committee. The MWP would include Members of the Englefield Green Committee along with Councillor M Heath as SCC representative. The MWP would be held in the Englefield Green locality and be open to the public.

522 **Events on the Green**

The Committee received an information report regarding a planned event on the Green to mark the King's Coronation.

An application had been received from the Englefield Green Cricket Club to host a street

party on the Green between the hours of 11am – 10pm on Sunday 7 May 2023, which under Section 21 of the Town Police Clauses Act would require the Council to make an Order for a road closure.

The proposed area for closure is the stretch of road either side of the Cricket Pavilion between private roads, some 110m in length.

Runnymede Officers had been in touch with Officers from Surrey County Council as the highway's authority, who have raised no objections to the closure.

The Committee was supportive of the event and complemented the Cricket Club on the previous street party held in 2022 to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

523 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the remainder of the meeting during the consideration of the remaining matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the discussion would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to Part 1 of the Act.

524 **Venue for future meetings**

Following recent Officer concerns regarding the suitability of the Englefield Green Cricket Club as a venue for the Englefield Green Committee. Officers emailed all Committee Members on their views on moving future Committee meetings to the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre in Addlestone. All but one Committee member responded. There were 3 Committee Members in support of moving the meetings to the Civic Centre and 3 against.

The layout of the Cricket Club obliges attendees to sit close to each other and unlike the Council Chamber it is not possible to indicate when to speak. The Council Chamber is a more structured/business like venue which was designed to accommodate council meetings.

The Englefield Green Committee was established by the virtue of the lease the Council has of the land described as Englefield Green. That lease does not impose any obligations as to the location at which meetings of the Englefield Green Committee should be held.

Officers had made enquiries at two Englefield Green venues for the extraordinary meeting held in January 2023. St. Jude's School and the Englefield Green Community Hub. St. Jude's School had worked very well for the extraordinary meeting in January. Officers had yet to look at the Englefield Green Community Hub to ascertain its suitability.

The Committee was fully supportive of moving future meetings of the Committee to a more suitable venue. Whilst it was appreciated a move to the Civic Centre required residents to travel it was considered the most suitable venue to ensure a more structured approach to future meetings. It was noted that the proposed new Englefield Green member working party would be held in the Englefield Green locality.

Resolved that:

Future meetings of the Englefield Green Committee be held in the Council

Chamber at the Civic Offices in Addlestone

(The meeting ended at 8.44 pm.)

Chairman