



## MOUSEHOLD HEATH CONSERVATORS

**2pm to 4:30pm**

**15 March 2013**

Present: Councillors Bradford (chair), Ackroyd, Price and Thomas; and Margaret Bush (The Mousehold Heath Defenders) Chris Southgate (The Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillors Henderson and Little

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2013

### **3. BUDGET MONITORING STATEMENT APRIL 2012 - JANUARY 2013**

The finance control manager presented the report. He confirmed that the overspend on pension contributions was due to a member of staff opting in to the pension scheme. The conservator's budget for the next financial year took the pension contributions into account.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

### **4. MANAGEMENT SUB GROUP REPORT**

The community and neighbourhood manager presented the report and distributed a copy of the new earth heritage trail leaflet. He gave an update on the work programme and said that a progress plan would be brought back to the management sub group and would be presented at the next full meeting of the conservators. The costings for the work programme had been looked at and due to financial restraints, the main work on the heath had to take priority over other special projects. Officers would continue to monitor the twelve ash tree along Gilman Road for signs of ash die back disease along with the mountain ash trees on the heath.

In response to concerns from a member about the use of herbicides around tree stumps, the Mousehold Heath officer reported that using a stump grinder had not

financially viable in the past but he would look into the current cost of this piece of equipment.

Chris Southgate updated the conservators on the work of Tim Holt – Wilson in making a bid to the lottery heritage fund for a small scale project on the heritage of brick making on the heath. He thought the project would improve understanding of the history of the heath and may encourage the local community to use it. This met the aim of the conservators to ensure the heath was used as a community asset. The conservators agreed that they supported the project in principle but would like more information on the practical aspects. They agreed to invite Tim to the management sub group meeting on 20 March to present his project plan to the committee.

**RESOLVED** to;

- 1) Note the report,
- 2) ask the Mousehold Heath Officer to bring costings for a stump grinder to the next sub group meeting,
- 3) to ask the community and neighbourhood manager to arrange a meeting prior to the itinerant meeting on 21 June; and
- 4) to invite all conservators to the management sub group meeting on the 20 March at 2pm in the Wymer Room to hear a presentation by Tim Holt-Wilson on his proposal for a heritage project.

**5. MOUSEHOLD HEATH UPDATE REPORT**

The community and neighbourhood manger presented the report and said that the work on the heath is on plan and all targets should be met. He explained that the tree works budget was higher than forecast as much of the work is emergency work which was difficult to cost for. The Mousehold Heath wardens were being trained to undertake this kind of work so would be able to do this work as needed.

A request had been received from the Norwich School to be involved in conservation work and the wardens are in discussion with teachers to set this up for spring 2013.

In response to member's concerns about anti-social behaviour on the heath, the Mousehold Heath officer reassured members that they work closely with the police to monitor instances of anti-social behaviour but at the moment, it wasn't an area for concern. The members discussed solutions to the problem of graffiti on the sports changing rooms. The community and neighbourhood manager reported that he was looking at the cost of putting a clear varnish on the wall which would allow graffiti to be easily cleaned off of the wall.

The Mousehold Heath warden updated the conservators on the orienteering trail. The trail is being maintained and people were encouraged to use the maps obtained from the customer contact centre and make copies themselves.

In response to a member's question the Mousehold Heath warden confirmed that new interpretation panels were part of the management plan and these could be considered in the next financial year. St William's Chapel would have a lectern panel

set up in partnership with the Mousehold Heath Defenders and Norfolk County Council towards the end of the year. It was suggested that the space advertising the by laws be condensed to allow additional space for interpretation boards which members agreed was a positive suggestion.

A member reported local resident had raised concerns that the 20mph speed limit on Gurney Road should be extended along the entire road and expressed their own concerns at the clarity of the white lines delineating the edge of the cycle path. The neighbourhood and community manager agreed to look into these issues with the highways department.

**RESOLVED :**

- 1) to note the report,
- 2) to ask the Mousehold Heath officer to ensure that the orienteering trail map is on the Norwich City council website,
- 3) to ask the community and neighbourhood manager to find the figures for the type and litreage of herbicide used on the heath and report back to the conservators; and
- 4) to ask the community and neighbourhood manager to look into the practicalities of extending the 20mph speed limit along Gurney Road with

**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

To approve the following schedule of meetings of the Conservators, to be held at City Hall at 2pm, subject to confirmation at annual council as follows:

21 June 2013  
18 October 2013  
17 January 2014

CHAIR