



Mousehold Heath Conservators

14:00 to 15:30

23 July 2021

Present: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Button, Champion, Kendrick, Lubbock, Maxwell, Price, Sands (M), and, Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillor Sands (S) and Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Maxwell as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice-chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Sands (M) as vice-chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Public questions

There were none received.

4. Wardens

The chair referred to the hard-work done by the Mousehold Heath wardens during the recent very difficult year and wanted to place on record appreciation of all of their efforts in continuing to provide an excellent service to the city.

RESOLVED to record the conservators' thanks to the wardens for their ongoing excellent work.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2021.

6. Provisional Outturn 2020-21

The service account presented the report and, in response to a question, said that he would look at the potential for investing the capital amount but he considered that options were limited in view of current low interest rates.

RESOLVED to note the revenue and capital outturn position for the Mousehold Heath Conservators budget 2020-21.

7. Mousehold Heath Management Update – 1 April 2020 to 9 July 2021

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He referred, in particular, to the increased patrols by wardens as a result of additional visitors to the heath, the restarting of volunteer activity and the visit to the heath by the Wastes and Strays project officers.

RESOLVED to note the quarterly update on activities on the heath and the delivery of the Mousehold Heath management plan objectives.

8. Mousehold Heath Conservators Annual Report 2020-21

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He referred, in particular, to the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on activities on the heath, the discovery of two sink holes, the opening of a new refreshment concession at Britannia Road, and the work of volunteer groups including students and schools.

In response to members' questions, the parks and open spaces manager said that the conservators did not have to pay for the collection of fly-tipping waste that he would check with NPS whether there would be a need to fund the filling in of sink holes.

The Chair expressed appreciation to the company which had made the bench in memory of the late Councillor David Bradford for replacing it when it had been stolen recently.

RESOLVED to note the report on the work carried out on Mousehold Heath on behalf of the Mousehold Conservators for the period 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021.

9. Flag pole location

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and referred to the two suggested locations for the flag pole proposed by the wardens.

Members then considered the merits of the two locations proposed. John Trevelyan considered that the Britannia Road location was not appropriate as it would be adjacent to a listed building. Councillor Sands (M) suggested that the site near to the pavilion was more suitable.

In response to questions, the parks and open spaces manager said that the flag would be raised and lowered each day, that he would enquire whether publicity could be provided on the purpose of the flag for public information and confirmed that it would not be appropriate for the pole to be used for displaying other flags.

RESOLVED to

- (1) agree to locate the Green Flag pole at the Gurney Road site
- (2) ask the parks and open spaces manager to liaise with the organisers on publicity

10. Mousehold Pavilion Maintenance Programme

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He said that the correct budget for the maintenance programme was £18,000 and not as stated in the report.

RESOLVED to authorise the procurement and delivery of works identified for 2021-22 to the value of £18,000 from the revenue budget.

11. Installation of a Letterbox at the Rangers House Access Track

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report.

During discussion, some members expressed concern about the cost of the proposal and suggested that the owner should be asked to contribute towards the installation of the letterbox. Other members differed with this view, particularly as the benefits of the proposal had been suggested by the wardens.

RESOLVED, with seven voting in favour and two against, to approve the installation of a letterbox to allow the Rangers House drive bollard to be raised to reduce fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour in the area.

12. Temporary Trading Sign Permission

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and, in response to a question, said that the concession was proving very successful.

During discussion, some members expressed the view that the proposed sign did not comply with the conservators' objectives and would set a precedent. The location was also at a busy traffic junction.

RESOLVED, with three voting in favour of the proposal, and five against, to refuse permission for the temporary sign detailed in the report.

13. Mousehold Heath Itinerant

RESOLVED to hold the itinerant meeting on 3rd September 2021.

14. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *15 below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

***15 Concession Application Gurney Road (Paragraph 3)**

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and answered a number of members' questions.

RESOLVED to approve the application, subject to the conditions stated in the report.

CHAIR