

Mousehold Heath Conservators

MINUTES

14:00 – 15:00

16 September 2016

Present: Councillors Maxwell, Lubbock Price, Sands (M), Raby, Thomas (Vi) and Woollard; John Trevelyan (Norwich Society), Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath defenders), Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

Also present: Bob Cronk (Interim Executive head of neighbourhoods), Neil Wright (Service accountant), Simon Meek (Parks and open spaces manager), John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society), Nigel Hales and Will Stewart (Mousehold Heath Wardens)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from councillors Bradford, Brociek-Coulton, Sands (M) and Price.

2. Public questions / petitions

One public question was received from Mr Paul Scruton (and put to the conservators in his absence):

“On Friday 20 March 2015 at the Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting, the conservators voted the brown Mousehold Heath Sign (detailed in the minutes of that meeting) and not for the sign that has currently been erected. As under the terms of the new lease with Zaks, the toilets remain open for use by the general public, yet there is no sign to inform the general public that the toilets exist and are available for their use.

Are we to expect yet another sign to be erected to meet this need? The Mousehold Heath sign, the conservators chose met all the requirements for informing and reassuring the public that they were able to use both the car park and the toilets, without needing to be customers of Zaks. Have council officers overruled the conservators?”

The chair explained that enquiries had been made with officers regarding the signage and that a full response was being awaited. The parks and open spaces manager added that he would also be speaking with Mr Scruton directly. Members agreed that it was important to move on these issues as a matter of priority to ensure clarity for all users of the heath.

3. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were made.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting on 17 June 2016, subject to the following changes:

- (1) Under item 8, there was a mistake with a name which read 'Patsy Arnold', and should be amended to read 'Pat Siano'.
- (2) Under item 10, bullet point 2, the words 'currently leased to Zaks' were incorrect and should be removed.

5. Budget monitoring statement, April – June 2016

The service accountant presented the report, highlighting the capital receipt generated by the Rangers House. The service accountant confirmed that the capital receipt funds belonged to the conservators, and the Parks and open spaces manager agreed to request a report from NPS providing an update around the terms of the Zaks lease to clarify which party was responsible for the discussed toilet-upgrade work. It was felt that upkeep of the pavilion – and any subsequent works required – could potentially be funded via the capital receipts funds.

RESOLVED that the parks and open spaces manager would request a report from NPS providing an update around the terms of the Zaks lease.

6. Mousehold Heath update

The Parks and open spaces manager presented the report, adding that the individual who had previously been camping on the Heath had returned that week and been arrested as a result.

RESOLVED to note the update.

7. Britannia Road car park – future use

The Parks and open spaces manager explained that the car park project was on hold for the time being to allow for a more holistic approach to the scheme. This included Britannia Café intending to apply for planning permission for a new, centrally-located entrance to the café from the road.

The chair explained that she had received a request from residents of Britannia Road to consider the use of the car park for overnight parking. She requested that this be given consideration once the project became live again. She also agreed to write to the planning team to gain some clarification regarding the intended application from the café to allow conservators time to submit contributions to the process.

RESOLVED that the chair write to the planning team to clarify the position of Britannia Café regarding their potential planning application.

8. Management sub-group report - Mousehold Heath Conservators sub group notes

The chair explained that she had met with the head of citywide services regarding concerns raised during the sub-group meeting about the cost of litter picking on the heath.

Clare Cohen said that the member of the public who collects litter on the heath - under his own volition - kept data regarding the types and amounts of litter he gathers. She said that she would be able to get a copy of this data for the conservators to review.

Discussion then ensued regarding litter collection, which encompassed the following points:

- Concerns were raised that if a volunteer is taking on litter picking work, the funds available to pay the employed litter picker may be removed.
- It was important to ensure that all areas of the Heath were covered but also to explore whether or not schedules of the volunteer and the paid litter picker did not overlap.
- It was explained the volunteer reports to the heath wardens prior to litter picking.
- The Parks and open spaces manager explained that the council was able to inform the route taken by the paid litter picker to target specific areas if needed.
- It was felt that it would be useful for conservators to have sight of the routes taken by the litter picker.
- The Parks and open spaces manager explained that the conservators' concerns regarding the litter picking could be addressed within the management report.

In closing the item, the chair stressed that it was important to remember that the litter picking volunteer was not covered in terms of health and safety. As such, he should not be directed by the heath wardens in any way.

RESOLVED that Clare Cohen would get a copy of the data relating to litter picking for the conservators to review.

9. Itinerant meeting date

RESOLVED to hold the next Mousehold Itinerant meeting as follows:

14:00 on 5 October 2016. All attendees to meet at the pitch and putt car park.

10. Date of next meeting

RESOLVED to approve the following meetings of the conservators, to be held at City Hall at 14:00:

(a) 20 January 2017

(b) 17 March 2017

CHAIR