



Mousehold Heath Conservators

14:00 to 15:05

17 June 2022

Present: Sands (M) (chair following election), Champion, Giles, Kendrick, Kidman, Lubbock, Peek and Schmierer and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton (vice-chair following election), Galvin and Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

1. Appointment of chair

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

2. Appointment of vice-chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Brociek-Coulton as vice-chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

4. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2022.

6. Appointments to the management subgroup

The chair reminded members that the chair and vice chair of the committee were automatically appointed to the subgroup.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Champion and Peek and Clare Cohen to the management subgroup.

7. Mousehold Heath Conservators annual report 2021-22

The head of environment services introduced the report. The Conservators agreed an annual work programme and budget in January each year for the following financial year. The plan would be monitored at subsequent committee meetings.

A member referred to the fact that the football goalposts had been stolen and not replaced for a whole year and was disappointed that they were not replaced sooner to enable bookings for the pitch to be taken.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the content of the report.
- 2) publish a simplified summary of the report highlights, on the Mousehold Heath web page.
- 3) note that the promotion of the heath continues in order to raise awareness of its value as an open space and the opportunities it has to offer for residents and visitors.
- 4) approve that authority is delegated to the parks and open spaces manager to produce the finished version of the summary report with the communications team; and
- 5) ask the head of environment services to establish why goalposts were not replaced quicker.

8. Quarter one management update

The head of environment services introduced the report. There had been high levels of activity at the heath, which was recognised as an important resource for the health and wellbeing of the city. The report highlighted the range of activities the wardens were committed to.

In response to Councillor Champion's question Councillor Giles advised that the concession on Britannia Road was now in operation.

A member asked when the ground works which planned to level off one entrance to the car park at Britannia Road were to be completed. The head of environment services agreed to feed an update back to committee on the progress of the works.

Councillor Kendrick advised that he had written to McDonalds regarding their planning application for a restaurant near the heath asking how they would mitigate litter. As a result, a question and answer session, would be held for conservators and interested members could contact him if they wished to attend.

A member considered the cost of litter picking on the heath could be mitigated by an article in the citizen explaining to the public the costs incurred, to which members agreed.

Members expressed thanks to the wardens, defenders and volunteers for their hard work on the heath.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the quarter one management update;
- 2) ask the head of environment services to provide an update on the planned grounds work at Britannia Road carpark; and
- 3) ask the head of environment services to speak to the communications team about a potential article on litter and its impacts at the heath.

9. Public toilet refurbishment at Gurney Road car park

The head of environment services introduced the report. There were four options to consider and members were being asked to choose an option in order that quotes could be obtained for works. Officers were recommending option four, the provision of a mixed gender layout including baby changing and disabled access. Members agreed with this option in principle but debate ensued about disabled facilities provision.

A member suggested that disabled facilities should be upgraded to be a 'changing places'. This was a scheme whereby there would be space and provision to change a disabled adult. The head of environment services proposed that a quote for a changing places facility could be obtained in addition to the quote for option four as it currently stood. He highlighted that it was likely that the costing for changing places would be beyond the budget available.

John Trevelyan noted that the report referred to the Norwich Society identifying the toilets as being locally listed but it was not clear this the case. He had reviewed records and the pavilion seemed to be locally listed but this did include the toilets. He noted further that being on a local list did not give legal protection from works being carried out. He also questioned whether the city council or the Mousehold Heath Conservators were responsible for costs of works. He perceived that the Conservators were responsible for cleaning and maintenance in terms of minor works but major works fell to the city council as landlord. It was agreed that the head of environment services would seek clarity on the position and update the committee at its next meeting.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) ask the head of environment services to provide a quote on option four as detailed within the report;
- 2) ask the head of environment services to provide a quote on including a changing spaces facility alongside option four as detailed within the report;
- 3) ask the head of environment services to provide clarity on which body was responsible for covering the costs of works at the toilets;

10. Implementation of the programme of roofing works

The head of environment services introduced the report which confirmed the funding was in place for the programme of works for the pavilion roof.

The chair noted that he was pleased to see the issue with scaffolding as detailed in paragraph 7 was resolved. Works which had been planned over two financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 would be undertaken together to enable a cost saving as scaffolding was needed for both stages.

Members discussed who was responsible for paying for the works on the pavilion roof. John Trevelyan said the Conservators were responsible for this as they received the rental income for the pavilion and therefore expenditure sat with the group too.

RESOLVED to authorise the programme of works as detailed in the report.

11. Itinerant meeting date

The head of environment services said that the itinerant meeting was a good opportunity for members of the committee to meet with the wardens on the heath and agree priorities. Members suggested that Norwich City Services Limited (NCSL) as a key partner be invited as well.

Resolved to:

- 1) conduct an itinerant on Friday 2 September 2022 meeting at 14:00 in the car park by Zaks restaurant; and
- 2) to ask the head of environment services to invite a representative from NCSL to attend the itinerant meeting.

CHAIR