



Mousehold Heath Conservators

14:00 to 15:05

18 March 2022

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Sands (M) (vice-chair), Brociek-Coulton, Champion, Galvin, Kendrick, Lubbock and Sands (S) and John Trevelyan (Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillor Button and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

1. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2022.

4. Mousehold Heath Budget Monitoring to 31 January 2022

The service account presented the report and highlighted the forecast underspend of £9,891 for the year 2021/22.

RESOLVED to note the current budget monitoring and reserves positions.

5. Norwich City Services Limited first year update (oral presentation)

The managing director and operations director of Norwich City Services Limited (NCSL) gave a presentation aided by slides, which are attached at appendix A of the minutes.

The chair asked whether the arrangement for delivery of works would remain the same. The operations director confirmed that nothing would change in regards to delivery and payment of services, but the company's aim would be to work more closely with Norwich City Council.

In response to a member's question the managing director confirmed that NCSL were working closely with the council on the Biodiversity Strategy and would be supporting that strategy through their work.

A member queried where the new electric vehicles would be able to recharge during the day. In response the operations director said that the electric vehicles would be fully charged overnight as there were not sufficient charging points throughout the city. The electric charging points were added as part of the build of the Hurricane Way depot and, as part of the building maintenance service being transferred to NCSL the company would be investigating how to add further charging points at the depot.

The chair asked whether a report could be brought to the committee detailing how the budget had been used to pay for the services performed by NCSL.

RESOLVED to

- 1) note the update; and
- 2) ask the operations director (NCSL) to bring a report to a future committee detailing payments for services undertaken by NCSL.

6. Designated area for concessionary trading at Britannia Road car park

The chair presented the report and highlighted the reasons for designating and closing off a part of the car park for a concessionary stand which was to ensure that neighbours would not be disturbed by the noise of the concession stand and to prevent antisocial behaviour arising from cars.

A member queried what the hours of operation would be and in response the Mousehold Heath warden stated that the concession stand was currently operating between 7:30am and 2pm.

A member asked whether the trading could lead to increased antisocial behaviour. The chair said that any antisocial behaviour usually occurred during the night or evening which would be after the concession had stopped trading for the afternoon.

A member highlighted that currently the concession stand was unable to trade at full capacity as due to health and safety the trader was unable to use their fryers as the car park was not level. In response the Mousehold Heath warden confirmed that through the installation of the lockable bollards part of the car park would be levelled for the concession stand to start using its fryers.

In response to a member's question the Mousehold Heath warden said that additional bike racks and bins could be discussed at the next meeting of the management subgroup. He also said that the material used to level the area would be the same as the car park.

The chair commented that concession stands were well liked and attracted visitors to the Heath.

A member queried whether there was a Concession Policy and whether one was needed for future concessions. The chair said that there currently was no policy in

place. The committee had been looking at drafting a policy, but this work had been delayed due to Covid-19. The Mousehold Heath warden highlighted that any concession stand licences were and would continue to be determined by the Conservators.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed works as outlined in the report.

7. Public toilet provision at Gurney Road car park

The chair presented the report and highlighted the options discussed in the report.

A member highlighted that it would be beneficial to look at making sure that the toilet provision on the Heath could be a Changing Places toilet. This would mean that facilities were provided for disabled people with limited mobility who required more specialised help with using the bathroom.

In response to a member's query the Mousehold Heath warden clarified that they were looking at how a composting toilet could work in practice on the Heath. Another member commented that there were a range of composting toilets already in use throughout Norwich, for example at the Marlpit Community Centre, and these examples could be used as a basis for the toilets on the Heath.

Members felt they were unable to make a decision on the toilet provision until a number of queries were addressed, these included the cost of each of the options highlighted in the report, what the current status of the building would be and what the cost of demolishing the building would be. Members also wanted clarity on whether the building would be sufficient to provide a Changing Places toilet facility. The warden stated that the costings for each option had been delayed due to the transfer of property services into the council which would occur on 1 April 2022, after this date the wardens would be able to discuss the options with property services to provide members with the suggested costs of the works.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) defer the decision on this item until the next meeting of the Mousehold Heath Conservators committee; and
- 2) ask the open spaces manager to report to the committee on the cost of all options considered, the current status of the building so that the highlighted queries could be addressed, and any demolition costs.

8. Mousehold Heath management update 15 January 2022 to 28 February 2022

The chair presented the report.

A member commented that the number of volunteer hours was a testament to the hard work of the Mousehold Heath wardens and that they should be thanked for facilitating volunteers to help on the Heath.

In response to a member's query the warden said that the hope was that the Heath would qualify for the Natural England Countryside Stewardship Programme and that they would continue to liaise with Natural England to progress this.

RESOLVED to note the Mousehold Heath management update 15 January 2022 to 28 February 2022

9. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *10 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***10. Pavilion roof works (para 3)**

The chair presented the report.

Members discussed the content of the report and asked questions.

RESOLVED to approve the expenditure as outlined at paragraph 7 of the report.

11. Vote of thanks to the chair

Councillor Mike Sands proposed, and Councillor Sue Sands seconded, a vote of thanks to the chair for her work chairing the committee and her work in relation to protecting and improving Mousehold Heath.

CHAIR