

Mousehold Heath Conservators**14:00 to 15:40****20 September 2019**

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Price (vice chair), Button, Kendrick, Lubbock and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders), Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project), John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society) and Will Stewart (Mousehold Warden)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Osborn, Sands (M) and Sands (S)

1. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2019.

4. Budget monitoring statement, quarter 1, April - June 2019

The finance business partner (LGSS) presented the report.

The vice chair asked for an update on the request made to provide interest to the conservators on the capital receipt of £100,000 received from the sale of the warden's house. The finance business partner advised that the interest accrued would be calculated and added to the conservator's account at year end.

RESOLVED to ask the finance business partner to:

- (1) produce a report for the next meeting advising committee on what would constitute reasonable prudent reserves; and
- (2) provide a view as to whether the conservator's risk were underwritten by the council.

5. Mousehold pavilion maintenance programme

(The chair agreed to take this item next)

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He highlighted that the figures identified for works were estimates. Work was programmed over the next six year period. A decision whether to fund works from capital or revenue budgets could be made at a later date. The order of works programmed had been decided with advice from surveyors.

It was noted that the figures for works included a figure to cover the pension deficit factored over the next six years, however, the pension deficit was due to be paid by 2021/22.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) authorise the procurement and delivery of works identified for 2019/20 to the value of £5150 from the revenue budget;
- (2) review the pavilion work programme and budget position in January 2021 to inform a decision on funding allocations for works becoming due in financial year 2021/22; and
- (3) ask the parks and open spaces manager to adjust the figures in Appendix A to the report to recognise that pension deficit contribution ends year 2021/22.

6. Four Urban Commons: Conference and workshop 9 July 2019, Brighton (verbal update)

The chair introduced the item, and said the conference looked at how different areas used their common spaces, this included Brighton, Newcastle, Bristol and Norwich.

The chair was accompanied at the conference by one of the Mousehold wardens and John Trevelyan.

The warden said the heath was the only example of a common space which was funded by a precept levied via council tax. The conference were impressed by the amount of community engagement work taking place on the heath and how a balance between the needs of the environment and people was achieved.

RESOLVED to note the update.

7. Ninth World Ranger Congress, Nepal 11-15 November 2019

The Mousehold warden provided an update on the forthcoming ranger's congress. The warden had been invited to attend the congress as the Norfolk representative of the countryside management association. It was in recognition of the hard work which had taken place at the heath. The warden highlighted the volunteer work which contributed to this; 40,000 hours during the last 11 years. There were over 400 people scheduled to attend the conference which included rangers from 60 different countries. The warden said he was looking forward to it and it would enthuse him for the work ahead.

RESOLVED to note the update.

8. Norfolk Orienteering Club event

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. He said the warden had met with the organisers and would attend the event on the day. The organisers had agreed to park offsite to minimise the impact on regular users of the heath. It was discussed that signs should be put up in advance to alert regular users of the heath to the event.

Following discussion it was:

RESOLVED to approve:

- 1) Norfolk Orienteering Club holding an orienteering event on Mousehold Heath subject to the conditions contained in paragraph 10 a-f of the report being met; and
- 2) the delegation of future requests from Norfolk Orienteering Club to hold orienteering events on the heath to the parks and open spaces manager, subject to this event not resulting in any problems.

9. Mousehold Heath management update Q2 1 June – 30 August 2019

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report. In response to a member question he advised that an application for Green Flag status on the heath would be applied for early next year.

RESOLVED to note contents of the report.

CHAIR