

MINUTES

Mousehold Heath Conservators

2pm – 3.30pm

20 March 2015

Present: Councillors Bradford (chair), Little (vice chair), Barker, Gayton, Jones, Maxwell, Little and Price; John Trevelyan (Norwich Society) and Margaret Bush (Mousehold Heath defenders).

Also present David Bye, Bluesky Leisure

Apologies: Councillors Ackroyd, Brociek-Coulton and Matthew Davies

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2015.

3. Budget monitoring statement April – January 2015

The finance officer presented the report. The head of neighbourhood services said that the figure in paragraph D relating to income from football pitches was a cautious figure and was expected to be closer to budget by the end of the financial year. This was due to the way that income was credited as with season passes, part of the money was taken at the start of the season and part at the end of the season. The usage of the pitches had remained at the same level.

RESOLVED to note the budget monitoring statement April – January 2015.

4. Mousehold Heath update

The communities and neighbourhood manager presented the report and answered member's questions. He said that the interpretation panel for the St Williams Way chapel had been sent to English Heritage and the Ancient Monuments Agency for approval. He did not have a timescale for this but hoped the approval would be granted by late April or early May 2015. He updated members on the volunteering being carried out by residents of Dibden Road hostel. In response to a member's question, he said that he would investigate the possibility of a piece in citizen magazine encouraging volunteers and including contact details for existing volunteer groups, to tie in with the recent work of the scrutiny committee's task and finish group.

A member raised concerns that a constituent had said the two ponds on the heath were being dug deeper and that there were no signs present to warn visitors to the heath of this as a potential hazard. The communities and neighbourhood manager said that he was not aware of any such work being undertaken but would make further enquiries and circulate and information.

The Conservators were given a choice of two signs to replace the damaged car park sign on Gurney Road as shown in the appendix to the report. It was agreed unanimously to use the second option. Members questioned whether a second sign should be ordered to highlight the larger car park on the heath.

The chair gave thanks to those councillors who were standing down at the end of the civic year and also took the opportunity to introduce and welcome John Trevelyan of the Norwich Society to the Conservators as Chris Southgate's replacement.

RESOLVED to note the Mousehold Heath update and to ask the communities and neighbourhood manager to:

- 1) Circulate to the Conservators any information on the digging of the vinegar and mustard ponds,
- 2) progress a replacement carpark and public toilets sign for Gurney Road, using option two in the appendix to item 6 on the agenda,
- 3) Investigate whether there would be any savings if two signs were ordered at the same time, with a view to signposting the larger pitch and putt car park as well,
- 4) calculate the monetary worth of volunteer hours to the Conservators at the end of the financial year; and
- 5) Investigate the possibility of placing an article in Citizen magazine encouraging people to volunteer on the heath.

5. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during the consideration of item *6 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***6. The pavilion – Mousehold heath**

David Bye from Bluesky Leisure gave a presentation to the Conservators on the proposed three phase renovation plans to the pavilion building and answered member's questions.

(David Bye left the meeting at this point.)

Sarah Cracknell, surveying technician with NPS Norwich, updated the Conservators on the current lease and their options to progress negotiations.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) Agree in principle to all three phases of the proposed renovations,
- 2) Ask NPS Norwich to progress lease negotiations with Bluesky Leisure; and
- 3) To bring the lease back to the Conservators once agreed.

CHAIR