NORWICH
City Council

Mousehold Heath Conservators

MINUTES

14:00 – 15:30 **19 June 2015**

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Price (vice chair), Bradford, Jones, Lubbock, Raby, John Trevelyan (Norwich Society) and Margaret Bush (Mousehold Heath defenders)

Apologies: Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Sands (M), Thomas (Vi); and Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

1. Appointment of chair

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

2. Appointment of vice chair

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

3. Public questions / petition

There was one question from the public, Patricia Siano:

> "When reading the Norwich City Council events guide for the summer, I was disappointed to see that there was only one concert due to be held on the Mousehold bandstand. Why not ask local schools to perform on this bandstand? It would help to encourage young musicians and give them confidence in performing in front of an audience. I hope the Conservators can look into how we can make this happen."

The chair responded on behalf of the Conservators as follows:

> "The bandstand concerts are organised by an individual on behalf of the City Council. He selects the bands and locations to offer a varied and interesting programme to communities around the city. The bands are all local and established.
>
> We would welcome applications from local schools, bands and other groups that would like to use the bandstand and increase the number of concerts around the city. We are currently unable to approach all schools but would be very happy to discuss the use of the bandstand with individuals."

Discussion then ensued during which the following points were made:

- It was agreed that more musicians needed to be encouraged to hold concerts on the bandstand;

- A small article could be placed in Citizen magazine encouraging people to use the bandstand;

- It was explained that the bandstand had no electricity supply and a low amount of parking, creating potential difficulties;

- It was felt that car parking need not be an issue if the school car park were used and people were encouraged to walk; and

- It was felt appropriate to consider a concert from Sistema – the current Lord Mayor's charity – to take place in 2016.

4. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2015.

6. Provisional outturn 2014-15

The service accountant presented the report. In response to a member's question, he said that the possibility of increasing the precept to cover the £2,808 of the pension deficit charge could be considered when the time comes to set the budget.

RESOLVED to note the provisional outturn report.

7. Mousehold Heath annual review 2014-15

The communities and neighbourhood manager presented the report, explaining that the higher level stewardship scheme (HLS) work carried out is vital to both Mousehold Heath and UK heathland. He highlighted the large amount of voluntary work undertaken and explained that – at a living wage level – this would have been worth £26k if carried out by paid staff.

It was suggested that closer work with the museums service could take place to highlight and utilise the historic nature of the heath, particularly with reference to schools visits. The communities and neighbourhood manager agreed that this was a good idea worth exploring.

In response to a member's question, the communities and neighbourhood manager said that the report would normally be published on the city council's website, but was open to suggestions that members may have for wider distribution. Suggestions included delivering printed copies to heads of schools to encourage schools engagement and also to café Britannia. It was felt that it would be worthwhile to emphasise the health benefits of using the heath.

It was felt that it would be worthwhile to advertise the fact that the report is produced, and perhaps a leaflet could be used to summarise the content of the report and give people a link towards the PDF of the full report online.

It was suggested that it would be useful to examine linking in with *Walk Norwich* and other fitness schemes.

The communities and neighbourhood manager then explained that the Express Coffee Car business was interested in setting up a concession in the layby on Gurney Road. He asked if members were happy for work to continue on this, emphasising that a fee would be charged.

Although some concerns were raised regarding the potential overlap with the Zaks business and the need to ensure good practices regarding litter disposal and recycling facilities were in place, members voted unanimously in favour for work to continue in this area.

RESOLVED to:

(1) note the Mousehold Heath annual review; and,

(2) agree that the communities and neighbourhood manager would pursue the potential for the Express Coffee Car to open a concession in the Gurney Road layby.

8. Mousehold Heath update

The communities and neighbourhood manager presented the report, adding that concerns had been raised regarding dog fighting and training on the heath. He explained that neighbourhood officers were trying to deal with any dog mess issues and that wardens were being vigilant with regard to the dog fighting and training.

He said that concerns had also been raised regarding changes to parking on Britannia Road - particularly in light of the new extended opening times of the Britannia Café. It was felt that the car park surfacing was not appropriate as it stood.

RESOLVED to note the Mousehold Heath update.

CHAIR