



**Mousehold Heath Conservators**

**14:00 to 15:15**

**15 March 2019**

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Price (vice chair), Button, Bradford, Brociek-Coulton and Kendrick (to end of item 5, below); and Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders), Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society)

Apologies: Councillors Lubbock, Peek and Sands (M)

**1. Councillor David Bradford**

The chair said that this was the last meeting of the Conservators that Councillor Bradford would be attending as a city councillor. He had been a long standing member and former chair of the Mousehold Heath Conservators.

**RESOLVED** to record the committee's gratitude to Councillor David Bradford for his contribution to the work of the Conservators.

**2. Public Questions/Petitions**

There were no public questions or petitions.

**3. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2019.

**5. Budget Monitoring Statement April to December 2018**

The finance business partner (LGSS) presented the report Q3 budget monitoring report.

The vice chair said that he was pleased with the budget monitoring report. This showed that the budget was under control and was in a good position for the launch of the Mousehold Heath Management Plan 2019-2028. He said that he was also pleased that the council had approved the Conservators' precept at its budget council on 26 February 2019.

During discussion, a member questioned whether the Conservators should receive interest on its capital receipt of £100,766. The finance business partner undertook to liaise with the chief finance officer on the Conservators' behalf. The current

situation was that all receipts were pooled and included in the council's treasury management.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) note the content of the report;
- (2) ask the finance business partner to report back to the committee on the interest from the Conservators' capital receipt.

## **6. Presentation - Countryside Management Association (CMA)**

(The chair agreed to take this item at this point in the meeting rather than at the end of the formal meeting because Councillor Kendrick needed to leave the meeting early.)

Will Stewart, Mousehold Heath warden, gave a presentation on the Countryside Management Association (CMA) and his attendance, as a representative of the CMA at the Portuguese Ranger Conference on Terceira Island, Azores. Attendance at the conference had been paid for by the Portuguese Federation. He was grateful to the council for enabling him to attend the conference, which had increased his confidence and been inspirational.

## **7. Mousehold Heath Conservators Decision Made Under Delegated Powers for Additional Contractor Days**

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and explained that in accordance with the terms of reference for the sub-group, the director of neighbourhoods, in consultation with the chair and vice chair had approved the sum of £500 for a contractor to continue on site for a further two days.

The chair said that where a contractor was on site and there was agreement that further work was required, it made sense for the contractor to continue on site. She suggested that the subgroup reviewed the terms of reference to increase the sum delegated to the director of neighbourhoods to £1,000. The parks and open spaces manager said that the sub group would discuss the terms of reference and a recommendation would be brought back to this committee for approval.

**RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

## **8. Mousehold Heath Quarterly Management Update**

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report.

During discussion, a member welcomed the path maintenance on the Gilman Road cycle route/footpath and the Cavalry Track.

Members also expressed their gratitude to the volunteers and noted that schools had been involved.

**RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

## 9. Mousehold Heath Management Plan 2019-2028

(Copies of the Mousehold Heath Management Plan Summary 2019-2028 were circulated at the meeting.)

The chair said that she was pleased to see the responses to the consultation which demonstrated the high regard that people held for the Heath.

The parks and open spaces manager presented the report and the consultation responses summary as set out in Appendix 2, pointing out where as a result of the consultation responses, changes had been made to the plan. He pointed out that responses had been anonymous but it was understood that major stakeholders and interested parties had responded to the consultation.

During discussion, members considered the recommended updates to the plan. The parks and open spaces manager said that these were minimal changes to the plan. The Mousehold Heath warden explained the importance of conserving the Elm suckers, using tree poppers, around Zaks. The White-letter Hairstreak insect was a rare insect and its caterpillars, which fed on young leaves, were important for the life cycle of Elm trees that were vulnerable to Dutch Elm disease. This was now the only site in the city where clusters of these rare insects had been found, since the Elm tree in Chapelfield Gardens had blown down. The parks and open spaces manager said that the other new project would map out significant trees to ensure the conservation of these trees recognising that there needed to be more formal management to conserve the natural habitat of the Purple Hairstreak and other rare insects.

A member expressed concern that her request for an easy read version of the public summary had not been pursued. The parks and open spaces manager confirmed that he had received the contact details of Equal Lives but had not yet had the document priced or consideration as to whether it would be meaningful. The suggestion had not been disregarded and would be considered as part of the work programme.

The parks and open spaces manager thanked the two Mousehold Heath wardens, Will Stewart and Nigel Hales, for their knowledge and understanding of the heath which had been an invaluable contribution to the development of the management plan. He also thanked the Conservators for their support and patience in agreeing to slip the project back a year.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Mousehold Heath Management Full Plan 2019-2028 and the Mousehold Heath Management Plan 209-2028 – public summary plan.

CHAIR