



Mousehold Heath Conservators

14:05 to 15:15

17 March 2017

Present: Councillors Maxwell (chair), Price (vice chair), Bradford, Brociek-Coulton, Lubbock, Raby, Sands (M), Thomas (Vi) and Woollard; Clare Cohen (Mousehold Heath Defenders) and John Trevelyan (The Norwich Society)

Apologies: Matthew Davies (Norwich Fringe Project)

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 20 January 2017

3. Budget monitoring statement

(Neil Wright, service accountant, attended the meeting for this item.)

The service accountant presented the report. He said that there was an underspend in the 2016-17 budget due to a rent review of the pavilion being undertaken part way through the financial year. The difference would be added to the Mousehold Heath Conservators reserves and the updated rent figure would form part of the next year's budget.

RESOLVED to note the update on the budget monitoring position for the Mousehold Heath Conservators revenue budget 2016 - 17.

4. Heritage Lottery Fund Earth heritage and history project bid (verbal update)

The director for neighbourhoods updated the Conservators on the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Earth heritage and history project bid. He said that the parks and open spaces manager had met with individuals to discuss progressing this but the opportunity was not able to be taken forward. Clare Cohen explained that the Mousehold Heath Defenders were not able to help with the bid as when they had a meeting with Tim Holt Wilson (get title), it was realised that there would be a lot of work and fundraising involved and this would not be possible with the current

resources available to the Defenders. She said that they were helping Tim Holt-Wilson to identify another community group that may be able to help.

A member suggested that the community enabling officer may be able to help with this.

The director of neighbourhoods said that the Conservators should always look at all opportunities available but reminded them that they already had a busy work programme for the new Civic year. If they were considering undertaking additional projects, the Conservators would need to think very carefully about timings.

RESOLVED to note the update on the Heritage Lottery Fund Earth heritage and history project bid

5. Mousehold Heath management plan 2018-2022 review

The director for neighbourhoods presented the report. He said that the report set out a different approach to that taken previously as this would be a four stage approach using the cycle of Conservators meetings to sign off the draft plan, section by section.

He suggested that members may want to think about submitting the work of the Conservators for a Green Flag award. If this was an idea that the Conservators wanted to take forward, this would influence the format of the management plan.

The Conservators discussed the merits of such an application and commented that the parks and open spaces manager had worked on similar projects in the past which made this a strong management plan.

In response to a member's question, the director for neighbourhoods said that the new management plan would run for ten years with a review after five years as this format had worked well previously.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) ask the parks and open spaces manager to submit a Green Flag award application by January 2018
- 2) agree the revised management plan format to support a Green Flag application; and
- 3) agree the proposed approach, timescale and key decision making points in appendix 1 of the report.

6. Mousehold Heath update

The director for neighbourhoods presented the report. He said that Storm Doris had a significant impact on the heath but work was well underway on tidying damage. In response to a member's question, he said that he did not have the information to hand on any significant trees being affected by the storm but would circulate this information to the Conservators.

He highlighted the vast amount of work by the volunteers on the heath and members discussed the best way to show the appreciation of the Conservators to the volunteers.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the Mousehold Heath update
- 2) ask the director of neighbourhoods to circulate information on significant trees damaged by Storm Doris; and
- 3) ask the chair and the parks and open spaces manager to write a letter to the press thanking the volunteers for their work on the heath.

7. Management sub group report – Mousehold Heath Conservators sub group notes

The committee officer said that these notes were not available for the meeting but would be circulated as soon as possible.

RESOLVED to ask the committee officer to circulate the Mousehold Heath Conservators sub group notes as soon as possible.

8. Mousehold Heath Conservators meeting dates 2017 - 18

The director for neighbourhoods said that the current pattern of sub group meetings meant that these were being held two weeks prior to the full Conservators meetings. This was not enough time for officers to incorporate suggestions into the agenda for the meeting and he suggested that these be scheduled at a mid-point between the main meetings.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the schedule of meetings for 2017 – 18; and
- 2) schedule the sub-group meetings at a mid-point to the main meetings of the Conservators.

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. Norwich Norse (Environment) service provision on Mousehold Heath (paragraph 3)**

The director for neighbourhoods presented the report and answered member's questions.

Members discussed the cleaning of the bandstand and were reminded to report any maintenance issues through the usual council channels to give contractors a chance to act upon any issues. A Conservator said that it was frustrating to report more than one incident as the form only allowed one incident to be reported on a form at a time. The director of neighbourhoods said that he would take this comment away with him.

RESOLVED to

- 1) note the report and the benefits realised beyond the direct services charged for by NorwichNorse (Environment) Ltd
- 2) ask the director of neighbourhoods to consider including an element of interpretation information in the car parks as well as ways to report issues on the heath; and
- 3) note that that the work being undertaken by the joint venture was meeting the needs of the conservators.

CHAIR