

Minutes of the Carnoustie Golf Links Major-Projects Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Monday 13th February 2012

Present: G. Wilson (Chairman), P Sawers, G Murray, J Gilbert, J McLeish, A McArtney, D Valentine

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), J Philp (Links Superintendent)

Meeting began 1930 hours.

1. Apologies

R Reyner.

G Wilson explained that he wished to modify the agenda by moving item 2, Course Toilets, down to item 7, Business Plan Projects. This was agreed by the Committee Members.

G Wilson further explained that he had asked J Philp to remain in order that an update could be obtained with regard to 2 specific projects.

He asked J Philp to give an update on the irrigation tanks and the recycling centre.

J Philp explained that the small water storage tank built in 1985 had now been removed and we were left with a single storage capacity tank that has approximately 10 years left and can hold 47,000 gallons. He described the intended replacement system which was to be underground and would therefore provide a better appearance for the area beside the greenkeeping sheds. J Philp also explained that there was an intention to increase the size of the staff car-park in that area once the existing tank had been removed. The new tanks however would not increase the capacity of water storage as this would remain around the 45-50,000 gallons.

However J Philp updated The Committee with regards to the Aquarius software which was used to control the irrigation system. Aquarius was only supported until 2014 at which time it would not be able to be corrected if it developed a fault.

It was therefore critical to the ongoing security of the irrigation system that Aquarius be replaced before this date. The system which was recommended was the Hunter Surveyor System which fitted well with our present irrigation system which was mostly made up of Hunter components.

However our present decoders would not work with the Hunter system and would therefore have to be replaced. J Philp explained we had 1200 decoders and the recommended price was £75 per decoder, although he was confident of obtaining a considerably reduced price from Hunter.

J Philp explained the concept of the recycling centre and that it was inevitable Carnoustie Golf Links would continue to produce a significant amount of waste product which would have to be

dealt with. J Gilbert asked about the proposed system to be introduced with Cotside Quarries and whether that would reduce or eliminate the need for a recycling centre at this time. J Philp said that the use of Cotside Quarry in this way would mean we did not require the recycling centre but he could not guarantee how long Cotside would be able to take our waste product however he was confident that this would not be an issue for the next 5 years.

G Wilson thanked J Philp for the information provided.

Sederunt: J Philp left the meeting at 19.45.

2. Update on Golf Centre Improvements

G Wilson explained the items which had been ordered for the Golf Centre which included the large display cabinet and honours board. He explained that, at present, the two moveable cabinets along with the proposed interactive display had been deferred for the moment.

G Wilson explained that we now had the option of being able to purchase a 90% replica of the Claret Jug. The replica, without a case, was priced at £5,785 + VAT and would take 16 weeks to make. If we did wish to order a replica, then the supplier would provide a stock item for display during the 16 week period if we required it.

G Wilson also explained that there was a display cabinet to be made which cost £7,300.

The Committee agreed to go-ahead with the purchase of the replica Claret Jug and the display cabinet.

3. Burnside 3rd Hole

G Wilson referred to the letter from Angus Council Environmental Health and explained that a decision was required as to whether any action was to be taken with regard to safety concerns beside the 3rd hole Burnside.

There was considerable discussion as to the practicality of a fence and whether this would have any reasonable chance of preventing the occasional golf ball from going over towards the cycle path, railway and housing.

The Committee concluded that it would not be possible to erect a fence which would have any impact on improving safety.

Comment was made with regard to the height of the fence and the proximity to the railway line which meant we would be very limited as to the height that could be used. G Duncan explained that the legal opinion was that Carnoustie Golf Links were under no obligation to take any action. However it was recommended that notices be put up in appropriate places.

It was agreed to seek confirmation of legal opinion in writing and also to be provided with the proper wording for notices.

Discussion took place with regards to the proposed changes to the 3rd hole which were part of the first 4 hole project of the Burnside. J Gilbert said that the PGA had provided a ball flight analysis for the driving range and that they could be asked to provide a similar ball flight analysis for the 3rd hole which would give us an indication of the optimum position for the green.

J Gilbert confirmed that the main reason for moving the green was for agronomy purposes but that if it could be made safer at the same time this was a factor that needed be considered.

The committee agreed to recommend the following to the Full meeting of directors.

Notices to be erected at specified locations.

The PGA be asked to provide a ball flight analysis for the preferred location for the 3rd green.

No new fencing to be erected.

4. Buddon New Holes

G Wilson gave an update on the current position of the planning application for the Buddon new holes and said that as it was a major development it was looking increasingly unlikely that the recommendation would go the development standards meeting of early April. J Gilbert asked if we reduced the planning application down to 2 holes only, rather than include the turf nursery, whether this would take us below the limit for a major development. G Duncan said he would clarify this as soon as possible.

5. Golf Centre Signage

Discussion took place with regards to the design and location of the proposed Golf Centre signs. P Sawers said that the Carnoustie Golf Links logo should be added to the sign if possible and that the colouring should be of dark green and gold rather than the light green shown on the sample provided.

It was agreed that Angus Council roads department should be contacted to assist with both the design and the location of the signs with particular attention being paid to the emergency vehicle aspects.

6. Business Plan Projects

G Wilson said that following the discussions earlier with the Links Superintendent he felt that the recycling centre should be removed as a current project and that the replacement software/decoders for the irrigation system should assume the highest priority along with the 2 new holes on the Buddon Links.

After discussion it was agreed to recommend that the Business Plan should show the 2 new holes on the Buddon and the software/decoder update as the projects to be delivered within the next 3 years and that for years 4, 5 and possibly 6 the remaining projects should be considered.

The sequence agreed was

1. Practice ground drainage.
2. Practice ground improvements.
3. Warm up facility on 1st hole Buddon Links.
4. Course toilets.

With regard to course toilets G Wilson said that he felt the £8,500 should be spent on the Buddon Links toilet upgrade this year which would provide at least 1 functional toilet on each course for the 12 months of the year.

G Murray said that it was important that as well updating the business plan, consideration was given to a maintenance section for the budget as we now had a large number of buildings all of which had to be maintained. The Committee agreed that this was an excellent idea and should be included in this year's budget.

7. Any Other Competent Business

G Wilson said that, since the unfortunate situation of our IT providers going out of business, IT support had been dealt with on an adhoc basis and consideration would have to be given as to how to properly provide IT support in the future. G Wilson said he felt there were two possible options. One was to identify an IT company which would provide the required skills and expertise and the second was to employ our own IT member of staff.

P Sawers said it was important to identify all our IT requirements first before making a determination as to the appropriate solution for the future. It was agreed that this report should be produced and made available to the Full Committee.

Meeting closed 21.00.