

**Minutes of CGLMC Ltd Environment Sub-Committee Meeting held in the
Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Friday 8 March 2013**

Present: J Gilbert (Environment Convener), A Nicholson(Angus Council),
A Reid, C Law, S Mitchell, C Boath

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager).

Meeting began 9.00 am.

1. Apologies

G Paton, P Sawers

J Gilbert opened the Meeting by saying all courses were in excellent condition and that the environment work done by the staff was first class. He had asked the Head Greenkeepers to produce a Draft Environmental Management Plan for each of their golf courses as we were now reaching the end of the five year period covered by the original Management Plans created by Dr Bob Taylor of S.T.R.I.

2. Draft Environmental Management Plan – Championship

A report has been prepared on a hole by hole basis and J Gilbert went through it on that basis.

C Boath said that due to recent severe winters, a significant amount of work had been done with gorse throughout the course and he felt that the staff were on top of the situation now with regard to the gorse.

A Nicholson questioned the use of the turf nursery between holes 3 and 5 and said it looked out of place in the middle of the Championship Course. Following discussion, it was agreed that the grass would be harvested this winter and the ground would either then be left bare to naturally regenerate or a rough grass mix would be planted which would give a more natural appearance.

J Gilbert said the proposed provision for spectators at the 7th hole would be agreed but should form part of an overall assessment by the R&A of work needed to be done to improve spectator facilities over the whole course.

J Gilbert said that the proposed work at the back of the 9th green had been specifically mentioned by the R&A in their recent correspondence with us and any work there should follow subsequent discussions with the R&A. C Boath clarified the proposed position for planting gorse at the 10th hole to screen the greenkeeping sheds. A Nicholson said it would be preferable not to use sea buckthorn, and that willow or alder would be a better, and more natural, alternative.

J Gilbert said that any mounding on the 11th should follow the overall plan from the R&A. J Gilbert said more gorse on the 12th hole to protect the Burnside 7th tee would be beneficial for safety purposes.

J Gilbert said that he felt the spectator provision near the green was actually not too bad and did not require any more mounding in that area. A Reid said it had already been agreed that more planting should take place behind the 13th green and A Nicholson said this would be appropriate for birch rather than rowan which tended to grow in a lollipop formation.

J Gilbert said that any proposed spectator mounding on the back of the 17th green should be presented to the R&A for an opinion.

A Reid explained that he had met with SEPA with regard to removal of weed from the burn and, at the moment, there was an agreed approach about how this could be done.

G Duncan asked if we could have some photographs of the bird boxes and the young birds that had been bred in the boxes as this had been a great success.

J Gilbert asked that a waste disposal section be added to the end of the report.

3. Draft Environmental Management Plan – Burnside

J Gilbert said that rather than have Scottish Woodland manage the trees on the right hand side of the 2nd hole, that a visit by A Nicholson and F Conacher would be better.

J Gilbert said that the 3rd hole would be a topic for discussion at the next Major Projects Sub-Committee Meeting.

C Law explained the positioning of the proposed trees to the right of the 4th hole and where gorse would also be planted. J Gilbert said that for F Conacher to view this area would be helpful.

J Gilbert asked if willow saplings could be planted on the 5th hole as the existing willow trees would eventually die and it would be helpful if saplings had already established themselves as replacements.

C Law said that his staff would probably be able to cut down the trees in the triangle that had been marked for felling by F Conacher but they would require to be left and cleared out a later date. C Law also said there was a lot of natural re-growth including holly and Scots pine in that area. C Law said that on the 7th hole, behind the tee, the intention was to replant new gorse in front of the existing gorse and then coppice the old gorse once the new plants had established themselves.

J Gilbert made reference to the 10th, 11th and 12th holes and the heather in those areas. He appreciated the efforts that are being made with the Timbrel chemical to remove broom but said that, in the event of this not being successful, a more radical approach might have to be taken. He suggested that the heather be harvested and replaced in a different area and the whole area then be killed off with Glyphosate. The heather could then be returned. He accepted that his was a more dramatic approach than the one that is being taken at the moment but suggested that there was a danger we could lose all the heather from that area if something significant was not done.

S Mitchell suggested that it may be helpful to have a heather nursery which could provide replacement plants in the event of an area of heather dying off or having to be replanted. It was agreed that this was a good idea but was likely to be more of a long term solution. A Reid said that if the stand of gorse behind the 17th green was to be removed, then it would be appropriate to raise the ground slightly which would have beneficial effect with regard to flooding.

J Gilbert said that he was happy that broom be completely controlled but that bramble should be left to develop if it was out of play.

J Gilbert asked that a waste disposal section be added to the Burnside plans.

4. Draft Environmental Management Plan – Buddon Links

A. Nicholson queried the proposal to put a dry stane dyke in at the existing 3rd hole as a means of diverting traffic along the road rather than the turf. He did agree that a dry stane dyke was an excellent feature but cautioned that it had to be done as part of an overall strategy otherwise it would look out of place. It was agreed to look at alternative options as well as considering the possibility of eventually constructing a dry stane dyke. A Nicholson said Angus Council had considerable expertise in both construction and maintenance of dry stane dykes.

S Mitchell asked if it was possible for A Nicholson and F Conacher to visit an area at the back of the existing 6th green to look at the possible species that may be planted in that area. A Nicholson said this would be something they would be keen to be involved in.

J Gilbert said in the existing 7th hole that Scots pine should only be removed if there was overcrowding in any particular area. J Gilbert said that with the existing 8th hole, care should be taken with regard to any thinning taking place behind the green that the railway and cycle paths should be hidden if at all possible. The same was true of the trees and gorse which currently provided a screen at the back of the 11th hole.

J Gilbert agreed with the suggestion that the right hand side of the 12th hole (new 10th hole) should have a screen to block out the ugly contractors compound, perhaps Beech or gorse along with Silver Birch.

With regards to the proposed work at the 17th and 18th holes, A Reid said that the Seagreen project, if it went ahead, would have a major impact in that area and therefore any proposed work should bear that in mind.

A Nicholson asked about waste disposal and A Reid explained that we were providing material to Cotside Quarry which they were using for landfill. A Reid explained that cost per ton for disposing of it in Cotside was much lower than the cost had been with the previous contractor.

J Gilbert asked that reference be made to the tree policy document when the plans were re-drafted.

5. Any Other Competent Business

A Reid explained that Carnoustie Golf Links was working towards the GEO environmental certification and that it would be of considerable help if further plans were drawn up by Dr Bob Taylor of S.T.R.I.

A Reid said he had a quote for £5,500 from Dr Taylor which was significantly cheaper than the cost of the previous management plan. A Nicholson concurred with this suggestion saying that it was helpful to gaining environmental certification if a qualified ecologist was involved.

G Duncan said that funding would be available from the 2013 / 14 budget to cover this cost.

A Nicholson said he would contact Shoreline Management to arrange a meeting.

Similarly, he would contact Fred Conacher and arrange a time for a visit and meeting.

Meeting closed 10.40 pm.