

**Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Environmental Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Wednesday 11 December 2013**

Present: J Gilbert (Convenor), A Nicholson, G Wilson, P Sawers, G Paton, A Reid, S Mitchell, C Law, C Boath

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager)

Meeting began 9.05 am

**1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

**2. Composting**

J Gilbert asked A Reid to go through the paper he had prepared on composting of material at Carnoustie Golf Links.

A Reid explained there were three main waste products which were suitable for composting. These were grass clippings, sand soil and turf, and gorse clippings.

Grass clippings had previously been removed from site, first by D J Laing and of late by Cotside Quarry.

Sand, soil and turf had been dumped and had by default broken down into a compost material. We have around 2,500 tonnes of this material which would last for a number of years, however this material would have to be screened and sand added in order to turn it into usable root zone.

Previously, green waste had been bought in and sand added to it but there was a significant cost with this approach.

A Reid explained that waste would still be produced going forward and that it may be possible to reuse this by looking at creating such things as spectator mounds and for other aesthetic reasons on the golf courses. A Reid explained that there is always a financial element to be considered in that does composting does actually save you money. It requires man power to process it, space to store it and screening and shredding machines to be bought to turn it into viable material. It also had to be considered how much we produce and what we would do if we ended up with too much material for our own use.

It was agreed we would start a composting trial probably over a five year period. Some of our winter works would be focussed on finding areas to use existing waste.

P Sawers said that if we were undertaking a trial, we had to be clear on what our expected outcomes would be. For example, how labour intensive was the work, how much would it cost and how much value would we receive from the end product.

It was agreed to set up a composting trial and to prepare an evaluation report in order to monitor the ongoing success of the trial and also the final outcomes.

A Nicholson said that he could arrange a visit from Rikki Goodwin , the Angus Council compost manager, and it was agreed this would be useful.

### **3. G E O Update**

A Reid said that the verification process for the GEO Eco certification should have taken place last week but that the verifier had to call off because of illness. The verification process would take place on 12 December 2013 and following this process, we would have much clearer idea of where we stood.

A Reid said STRI had done a lot of the input work which was extremely beneficial. A Reid said that it had highlighted that our record keeping could be better. The records were all maintained but were not necessarily in an easily accessible format.

A Reid explained that we would be subject to a re-verification every three years and it was a requirement that we were expected to improve from our present position during that three year period.

P Sawers suggested that during the three year period if we are successful in obtaining a GEO certificate, that we should be looking to do some kind of internal audit so that, when the external re-verification is done, we are confident nothing has been missed.

A Reid explained that, as yet, no one has actually gone through the re-verification process. Auchterarder were the first golf course to obtain the certification and they will be re-verified shortly which should provide a better understanding for everyone as to how the process will work.

### **4. Burnside Triangle**

J Gilbert asked C Law what the current position was with regard to this area. C Law said there were still trees to thin out and that a felling licence had been obtained for the removal of trees.

A Nicholson asked if there were detailed plans with regard to the proposed new green that was to be going into this area. J Gilbert explained that we knew exactly where the green was going to go and that nothing was being replanted in that area. However, this project was liable to be some time away and it would have to be seen how this fitted into the overall business plan along with the other projects which Carnoustie Golf Links would be undertaking in the next few years.

A Nicholson asked what the mix of trees to be replanted would be and C Law explained that it was the same mix as in other plantations but that there was some natural re-growth of Scots Pine in the area.

C Law explained that it was the intention to take down 18 / 19 trees this year as per the felling licence and this work would be done when there was poorer weather.

C Law also advised that the bramble was spreading in the area and was choking out any natural re-growth from other plants. J Gilbert said that this had been raised last year but the directors had decided not to do anything with the bramble as it was a good natural habitat. However, he said if it was becoming too extensive, then the area could be looked at and a change made to the decision.

A Nicholson suggested that a clear plan for the whole area should be produced so that everything that was being done in the area was working towards this plan.

J Gilbert said this was a reasonable idea and that plan and time scales should be produced.

#### **5. Bird Box Report**

Barry Irving had produced the bird box report which showed 14 bird boxes were actually used in the last year and a bat had been found in box 19.

J Gilbert suggested that, for the boxes that had not been used, Barry Irving should review his historical records and, if a box had not been used for a number of years, it should be considered to be moved to a different location.

It was agreed that Barry Irving could produce two new owl boxes.

J Gilbert asked if contact could be made with the bird ringer from Barry to see if the species which he was identifying were the ones using our bird boxes.

A Nicholson said that Angus Council had a bat expert who would be able to come down and provide advice with regard to the bat in box 19.

#### **6. AOCB**

G Gilbert asked A Reid for a flooding update. A Reid gave an explanation of the work which has already been done but emphasised that we would not be fully aware of the impact of this work until the next flood occurred.

G Duncan suggested that A Reid produce a report for the R & A of the work that we have done so far to demonstrate that we are taking this matter very seriously.

J Gilbert advised that there was a three party approach between Carnoustie Golf Links, Angus Council and the R & A with regard to resolving as much as possible the flooding issues at the Golf Links which would involve significant work, particularly by Angus Council, on areas of the burn that were not on Carnoustie Golf Links land.

A Reid said a survey for Scottish Water had been done by Douglas Land Surveys in the hope that they would be able to produce a computerised model of the Barry Burn which would show in much more detail the flood risk areas.

C Boath asked if solar panels had been looked at for the greenkeeping sheds. J Gilbert said they had been looked at with regard to the new toilet building but not for the greenkeeping sheds and he asked C Boath to produce a report on the matter.

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A Nicholson raised the matter of dog control on the course, particularly with regard to ground nesting birds and suggested that the dog in these circumstances should be kept on a short lead not just under close control.

J Gilbert said this was a concern but the problem always remained one of enforcement. He said that the matter of dog walking had been discussed at length at the greens meeting and would be a topic for the next full meeting.

It was suggested that an article could be written for the Gazette and the Courier.

Meeting closed at 10.05 am.