

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Sub-Committee Meeting held in the CGLMC Ltd Office on Monday 16th September 2013

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convenor), G Wilson, L Gordon, C Yule, A McArtney, K Sampson.

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), S Mitchell (Buddon Links Head Greenkeeper).

Meeting began 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

P Sawers.

2. Links Superintendents Report

G Wilson advised the committee that the fence on the right hand side of the 1st hole of the Burnside Course had been previously agreed by the directors. This follows on from a query raised at the previous full meeting.

A Reid advised that he felt his meeting with Walter Scott of Angus Council was very informative. A Reid advised that going forward, Angus Council want to work in partnership with CGLMC Ltd to improve the flooding situation on the courses. A Reid advised that funding may be needed for future works. It was advised that although the flood prevention works done on the town have been successful, there are problems now with silt build up that need to be dealt with. Walter Scott endorsed the flood prevention work done by CGLMC Ltd to date and highlighted potential problem areas. A Reid advised that he wants to find out how successful the current works have been on the course, which means waiting until the course floods again. J Gilbert suggested that going forward, G Wilson should deal with the R&A on the flooding matters and that G Duncan should deal with Angus Council.

A Reid will keep the Greens Committee informed of Angus Council's progress with their planned work upstream.

3. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship Course

J Gilbert advised that this was all mainly routine maintenance, with very little, if any, disruption to the course.

A Reid advised that he would like to mend the hole in the road next to the 10th hole. This will need to be address as soon as the Dunhill has finished. This would mean closing the road to cars and only allowing walkers and cyclists by, car drivers would get access via the entrance near the MOD ground. G Duncan was asked to liaise with Angus Council for advice on closing the core path to vehicles. A Reid also advised that the road to right hand side of the practice ground will need to be repaired.

Burnside Course

J Gilbert advised that there are 4 trees on the left hand side of the 16th hole that are marked to be removed, and he suggested that to his knowledge it had been agreed to keep them. A Reid will look into this and advise C Law as appropriate.

Buddon Links Course

C Yule enquired to whether a drop or place rule was to be followed at the drop zone on the 12th hole. It was advised that this is a local rule and it can be decided upon by the committee. It was agreed that the ball should be dropped in these zones.

S Mitchell raised concerns over the bullrushes in the pond. He advised that they need to be addressed before they get out of control. J Gilbert suggested that a meeting be held with him, A Reid and S Mitchell to discuss the management of the lakes on the Buddon Links Course as they require a large amount of man power and time to maintain. A Reid advised that B Taylor did not get a chance to review the lakes on the Buddon Links on his last visit. J Gilbert will report back to the committee in due course.

4. Winter Works Proposals

J Gilbert advised the committee that he had held previous discussions with both G Duncan and A Reid on this matter prior to the meeting.

Championship Course

J Gilbert enquired to whether the work on the 10th hole was Open Championship related. A Reid advised that it was.

A Reid advised that the points on the report containing asterisks are areas that are required to be excavated to use the sand for other works.

J Gilbert asked whether it would be an opportunity to remove the ryegrass from the right of the 2nd green whilst other works were happening in that area. A Reid advised that this would be appropriate.

J Gilbert advised that the provisional winter works budget is £100,000 and the proposed works are well within that budget.

A McCartney enquired to whether all works were to be carried out by CGLMC Ltd staff. A Reid advised that they were.

It was agreed to present all proposed works for the Championship Course to the full meeting for approval.

Burnside Course

C Yule enquired to whether the works on the 16th hole were to improve the safety on the course. J Gilbert advised that this was correct. He also advised that it is hoped work could be done on the 3rd hole to increase safety in that area also. Turf could be used from the existing 16th green.

It was advised that the tree felling licence has not yet been granted but we can thin out up to 20 trees per quarter without a license which means a limited amount of trees can still be removed in the meantime.

There will be trees planted behind the 4th tee.

It was enquired to whether trees had been planted at the gable end of the shed as previously agreed. A Reid advised that the trees were planted but have since been stolen. Replacement trees are due to be replanted.

It was advised that it had been previously agreed to keep the rockery area on the 1st hole of the Burnside course, but with further investigation, A Reid has proposed that it be removed. He advised that it is difficult to manage traffic onto the course in this area and removing the rockery may alleviate some of the difficulty. It is also difficult to maintain.

It was agreed to present all proposed works for the Burnside Course to the full meeting for approval.

Buddon Course

The word "add" needs to be added to bunker adjustments on 12th hole Buddon Links.

It was agreed to present all proposed works for the Buddon Links course to the full meeting for approval.

The committee agreed that this is a comprehensive Winter Works programme but is weather reliant as normal.

5. 1st Fairway Buddon

It was agreed previously that very little should be spent on this project initially. Visuals were circulated to the Committee for perusal. C Yule enquired to whether this would be a junior practice area. He was advised that it would be for juniors but also as a warm up area for all players of the courses.

The R&A want this area to be flat for their use during an Open. A Reid advised that flat bunkers could be built in the meantime. Further plans will be drawn up with the advice of C Sinclair, A Reid, S Mitchell and input from the Greens Committee.

K Sampson enquired to why there were 6 holes. A Reid advised that he was hoping to make it a divisor of 18, but this was not a necessity and could be amended. Long shots will not be encouraged. J Gilbert advised that he is keen to keep the 1st green at the moment as it could potentially be utilised or included in the warm up area plans.

S Mitchell suggested building more bays with practice nets to allow further warming up facilities. J Gilbert advised that with the current 4 bays there are very seldom queues. He suggested that this work should initially start small and can then be improved in due course.

J Gilbert gave a brief overview of the attempts made to build a driving range in the past for the benefit of any Committee members who were not involved in the original discussions.

It was advised that the plans for this area should be finalised by the Greens committee completely before presenting to the full meeting for approval.

6. Open Championship Requirements

It was advised that J Gilbert, G Wilson and A Reid received a report from the R&A highlighting various matters.

Some of the points raised were discussed below:

Seagreen

G Wilson advised that the R&A's concerns were put to rest in the meantime by advising that the MET mast has not yet been erected and that 2 years worth of data is required before the project can be taken any further. G Wilson is awaiting a letter of confirmation from Seagreen that they would not carry out any works during potential important dates such as an Open Championship being held at Carnoustie.

Members Practice Area

Concerns were raised in regards to flooding.

TV Compound

It was advised that the R&A do not believe the TV compound area at the start of the Burnside course is big enough to accommodate the infrastructure needed and may need to be extended to another area.

The R&A will be advised that CGLMC Ltd are dealing with and continuing to improve on works such as flooding issues and the TV compound.

Item 1 - Practice Area

CGLMC Ltd want to improve the drainage arrangements for the benefit of the local golfers as well as meeting R&A requirements. A Reid had advised that this work could potentially be bigger and more costly than suggested by J Costner. A Reid advised that with S Mitchell's expertise in drainage he would like to install some trial drains as a less costly alternative to J Costner's plans. C Yule enquired to why pumps would not be installed. He was advised that this is a costly option and ideally it would be better to try the less expensive option first.

This drainage work will be added to the Winter Works and potentially carried out in April.

Item 2 - New Practice Tee

It was advised that the R&A have suggested that they would like to develop a practice tee on the other side of the burn. They are due to confirm this in writing but have not done so to date. It was agreed that this could be accommodated but work would need to be carried out on the access.

J Gilbert suggested that until official confirmation is given in writing from the R&A that they require works to be carried out, they should not be done. He advised that it would not be efficient to carry out works if in fact they were not required.

The TV compound area is not a problem at the moment, but it could become a problem is if the 2 new holes are built in the future. This work would have to be discussed with the R&A before going ahead.

G Wilson advised that the R&A want Carnoustie to have a system where things are in place to hold a Open Championship so that less work is required on each occasion the event is held.

G Duncan advised that the works to the practice tee could be funded by the R&A if they officially confirm this work is required. G Duncan will look into this. They will likely confirm it is okay and will fund it if we suggest it could be built in our winter works, perhaps next year.

K Sampson enquired to whether the practice ground at the other end of the course was CGLMC Ltd land. He was advised that it is. K Sampson then suggested that tees could be set up in the opposite direction of the current tees giving more tee off space.

The proposed work on the 10th tee Championship and the drainage works are included in the Winter Works.

7. Any Other Competent Business

Winter Circuits and Course Closures

The Buddon Links and Burnside Courses will be closed for 1 week each. Dates are as follows:

Championship Course, 4th November – mats introduced on all courses.

Buddon Course – 18th November

Burnside Course – 25th November

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The normal circuit will be used for the Championship Course this winter.

S Mitchell enquired to whether the practice tees should be played of turf or mats until the winter. It was agreed turf should be played from up until the end of the season with the smaller mats also being available. The tees will be moved backwards as appropriate due to wear and tear on the turf. The plastic mat will be used of the winter.

The Buddon Links course will be rated a week after the Dunhill finishes. G Duncan is to chase up the rating of the other two courses.

A McCartney enquired to what the white line was on the 11th green. A Reid advised that this was duck droppings that had got onto the roller.

There being no other competent business, the meeting was then closed at 2010 hours.

KS