

Minutes of CGLMC Ltd Environment Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Friday 27th November 2015.

Present: J Gilbert (Environment Convenor), G Paton, A Nicholson, A Reid, C Boath, K Stott, S Mitchell

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), N Cunningham (Greenkeeping Administrator)

The meeting began at 0900 hours.

1. Apologies

W Thompson, P Sawers, I Frier

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. STRI Ecological Reports

J Gilbert said in 2007 the original environmental reports were commissioned by Dr Bob Taylor, these expired in 2012.

Following 2012 the head greenkeepers of the Burnside and Buddon Links prepared their own environmental plans. Dr Bob Taylor continued to report on the Championship course as part of the Open Championship venue arrangements. J Gilbert said that it had been agreed to produce an environmental plan for the Buddon Links course and the non golfing parts of the estate.

0910 hours Sederunt: P Sawers and I Frier joined the meeting.

J Gilbert asked A Reid and C Boath if they had any comment on the Championship report. A Reid said that the only comment would be that when gorse is cleared it would not always be appropriate to re plant in the same area. J Gilbert said he agreed with this but said he thought other compensatory areas could be available. J Gilbert said the recommended bare earth policy was not viable. A Nicholson asked whether a decision had been taken with regards to the back of the 9th hole of the Championship. J Gilbert said we were awaiting instruction from the R&A with regards to this area.

J Gilbert said that the Buddon Links greenkeeping team should try and implement as much as possible of the report over the next 5 years. He understood a smaller team on the Buddon Links meant this would be challenging, as they must give priority to the golf course.

J Gilbert said the current spoil heap should be moved if possible to a hard standing area at the level crossing. However this would be part of the R&A Open Championship report which is still 12 months away. J Gilbert asked if contactors were going to do the required pond management work. A Reid said they are presently working on the new 16th green of the Burnside and would look to extend the contract for a couple of days to allow them to do the pond work. G Duncan confirmed that there were funds available in the environment budget to pay for any additional contractor duties.

J Gilbert asked K Stott about work taking place on the Burnside. K Stott said that the area of the burn at the 3rd and 4th holes was still causing problems. A Reid said SEPA would not allow hard standing solution but green initiatives could be introduced. However he said it would be a substantial project that would have to be carefully assessed.

4. Bird Report

A Nicholson said Dundee & Angus Bird Group had visited the whole site and recorded over 70 species. J Gilbert said he felt we should continue with the relationship for another 2 years as it is a local group. J Gilbert suggested that he and A Nicholson should meet with the group at some point during the winter.

The sub-committee agreed to make a £500 donation to Dundee & Angus Bird Group in appreciation of their good work.

J Gilbert said he was pleased that G Brand and W Spark were now responsible for the bird boxes. P Sawers suggested a web cam in one of the bird boxes might be of interest on the web site.

5. Sand Dune Project

A Reid covered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Canterbury Christchurch University and CGLMC Ltd. He said taking part in the project would not create any issues for Carnoustie Golf Links. The sub-committee decided to leave this in A Reid's hands. A Nicholson suggested that if small bore holes were to be introduced then some should be on the proposed line of the Seagreen cable in order that data be obtained.

6. SEPA Fish Report

C Boath said this report should be available by the end of November 2015. J Gilbert said this should be on the agenda for a Green's meeting.

7. Environmental Booklet

J Gilbert said the R&A were going to fund the print run and they had agreed to upgrade the paper quality. He said the R&A would require a page promoting the Senior Open Championship and a second print run required to promote the 2018 Open Championship. J Gilbert said he thought the booklet would be very helpful with regards to a GEO re-accreditation. P Sawers suggested that when the booklet is received an electronic copy should be placed on the CGLMC Ltd website.

8. Fred Conacher Visit

J Gilbert said Carnoustie Golf Links had a tree policy where everything was marked in compartments. He said this had originally had been done by Fred Conacher of Angus Council, and Fred visits every year to review the estate. He said Fred was very pleased with the work that had been done and the development of the replanted areas. Fred had mentioned the trees at the 5th Burnside which required to be topped and this would be carried out in due course.

A Nicholson mentioned that care had to be taken not to strim the grass at the base of young trees and he mentioned the 14th hole of the Buddon Links. A Reid said this had been a mistake by one of the young greenkeepers as the staff know this is not normal policy.

9. Operation Pollinator

C Boath said this was going very well particularly the involvement of local schools. He said we had been listed for an environmental award for this work. C Boath said we receive free wild flower seed from Barenburg which is very welcome.

10. GEO Re-validation

J Gilbert said that having GEO certification was an R&A requirement and was important for our charitable status. He said we were improving all the time with our environmental work and should have no difficulty with the re-validation process. A Reid said that the biggest challenge was the recording of all the work that had been carried out but he was working on that with N Cunningham. J Gilbert said all environmental communication was now to go through N Cunningham, who would compile a detailed database of all environmental reports.

11. Energy Report

A Reid said recent legislation had meant our consultant was very busy and therefore our report has been delayed, however he expected it to be with us in the near future.

12. Any Other Competent Business

Golf Environmental Awards

J Gilbert said C Boath had done extremely well to be highly commended and achieving recognition, in the Golf Environmental Awards.

Environmental Work

J Gilbert and P Sawers congratulated A Reid and the greenkeeping staff for the excellent environmental work they had carried out over the last 12 months.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1000 hours.