

Minutes of the CGLMC Ltd Greens Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links

Parade on Monday 8th February 2016

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), P Sawers, L Gordon, G Paton, A McCartney

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager), A Reid (Links Superintendent), C Boath (Head Greenkeeper Championship)

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

I Frier, C Yule

2. Declaration of Interest

There was none.

3. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid explained that the parts of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th holes of the Burnside course had recently been unplayable, and restricted to players due to winter weather causing safety issues. J Gilbert thought the report was very accurate and agreed entirely. J Gilbert asked why, when the course was closed, it was acceptable for greenkeepers to be working if it was unsafe for golfers to walk. A Reid explained that, on these occasions, staff would be working in the rough, or cutting gorse and trees. J Gilbert said he understood the need to follow Health and Safety procedures at all times.

A Reid assured members of the meeting that he tries not to close the courses, especially on busy days when there are club competitions. The course closures, and the reasons for making these decisions, were fully supported by J Gilbert.

Congratulations were given to C Boath for achieving the Operation Pollinator award recently at Harrogate. P Sawers asked if C Boath had contacted local schools regarding the award. C Boath confirmed this has been done and they will be contacting L Gordon. A Reid informed the meeting that it was a very successful conference and that excellent workshops and seminars were attended. A Reid also said that A McRae was invited by Hunter Irrigation and assisted them at their exhibition stand.

4. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

L Gordon questioned the white dotted lines on the fairways and felt they were narrowing slightly. C Boath assured L Gordon that he is softening the shapes of the fairways and did say the rough is getting thinner. J Gilbert saw nothing untoward and asked C Boath to include this in his monthly forecast.

G Paton asked if C Boath to redo the white lines at the 14th beside the gorse bush as they have become difficult to see due to tractor tracks. C Boath agreed to redo.

C Boath had no further issues to add.

Burnside

J Gilbert suggested an Operation Pollinator site could be created on the waste area on the 14th hole. The intention would be to sow wild flower seeds, but also leave some bare sand as per Dr Bob Taylor's recommendations. A Reid will discuss with K Stott.

Root zone is due to be spread out on the new 16th green area, but this has been delayed due to the heavy rain. The plan is to add more height to the approach. J Gilbert and P Sawers thought the trees fitted in very well with the hole design.

Coring is to take place on all Burnside greens in 4 week's time, weather permitting. Pins will go onto winter greens during the process. This will provide cores to be used as a base for the new 16th green. This is a new technique designed to try and match the new green to the existing greens.

Buddon Links

A Reid informed the meeting all winter projects are all on track.

5. Health & Safety

J Gilbert explained the proposed Health & Safety meeting has not taken place as yet. J Gilbert will arrange with T Healey and A Reid. J Gilbert confirmed there were no outstanding problems as all has been done according to risk assessments, but this was a further step in the process of creating a safe working environment for everyone.

6. Any Other Competent Business

J Gilbert reminded A Reid that top dressing the fairways can be unlimited in the winter, but then only one fairway per week during the season, and, if otherwise, special permission should be sought. He also reminded A Reid that gorse work has to be completed for 1st March, again unless special permission sought.

A Reid gave an update on the Imlay bridges. Irrigation electrofusion will be completed this week and the floor on the left-hand bridge is to be completed in-house. A Reid explained that the holes drilled into the right-hand side bridge are for drainage, unlike the left-hand bridge where water runs off both sides.

G Paton referred to the architect's plans of the bridges and questioned the dimensions. He felt the right-hand one was higher than intended. A Reid thought the measurements were correct but would investigate. P Sawers agreed that it has to be within the parameters of the planning permission. J Gilbert asked G Duncan to check with Angus Council regarding the planning permission.

J Gilbert asked if there were plans for an official opening of the bridges, and P Sawers agreed it would only be right to do so. Mrs Imlay had said she would be happy to be involved if it coincided with her next visit.

A McCartney questioned the safety of the bridge on the 18th tee Burnside during the Seniors Open. A Reid informed him it is up to the R&A and nothing is normally done during the Dunhill.

J Gilbert referred to discussions at the Trustee workshops and said a suggestion had been made to go to six-weekly Greens meetings in line with full board meetings. L Gordon suggested decisions could be made after the workshops were complete.

P Sawers raised concerns regarding left-hand bridge 10th Championship during the recent flooding and asked if there were any further information. A Reid confirmed he will be submitting a flood prevention report in the near future.

There being no other competent business the meeting closed at 1930 hours.