

Minutes of CGLMC Ltd Environment Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Committee Room at 20 Links Parade on Wednesday 14th December 2016.

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

In Attendance: N Cunningham (Greenkeeping Administrator)

The meeting began at 1035 hours.

1. Apologies

P. Sawers, C. Yule, G. Duncan

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Birds

J. Gilbert said there were, as he sees it, three main sections relating to Birds. The first was the Bird Box program run by C. Boath, second section was Angus Bird Club with A. Nicholson as the contact and Bird Ringing which was done by P. Ellis.

J. Gilbert asked if A. Nicholson could take us through the Angus Bird Club findings. A. Nicholson stated that the Angus Bird Club visit the site on a regular basis and that this year the highlight was that they had recorded nine new species taking the total from 63 species to 72. As of yet there had been no record of a magpie but it was nice to see that Jack Snipe and Shoveler Duck on the list.

A. Nicholson suggested that maybe if an individual spots a bird we could email J. Cook of Angus Bird Club and he could add to the list, but would need to check if this is possible.

A. Nicholson highlighted that there were a couple of issues raised by Angus Bird Club in relation to habitat management, one issue was with regards to winter feeding. A. Nicholson said he would contact J. Cook to see if he had contact details for Y. Stephen of the RSPB to see if they were still running their winter bird feeding scheme, and if so maybe meet up to discuss implementing the scheme on the Links. J. Gilbert stated that even if the RSPB

scheme was no longer running he would still like to see some sort of winter bird feeding scheme introduced.

A. Reid asked if the area for sowing the seeds could be on rough, bare ground or in a fescue area. C. Boath suggested using the area at the far end of the course where the ditch was filled in. A. Nicholson said he didn't think that would be a problem and wasn't expecting the area to be on the middle of the golf course.

J. Gilbert suggested that A. Nicholson, A. Reid and C. Boath liaise with regards to coordinating a winter bird feeding scheme.

A. Nicholson also raised the issue of maybe creating a couple of habitats to promote Sand Martins and Kingfishers. A. Nicholson suggested making a habitat for Sand Martins in a steep bank on the course and creating something on the step face of island to promote Kingfishers. A. Reid said it can be tough to find an area for Sand Martins due to the height of sand dune required, A. Reid said if A. Nicholson could find out the minimum height required and if it could be dark sand then he could look at potential areas.

C. Boath spoke in brief about P. Ellis bird ringing reports and said that we had had a really good year. C. Boath said that with regards to bird boxes he would like to have set numbers for set courses as they would be easier to locate, he planned to do this over the next few years. J. Gilbert suggested that C. Boath might want to look at STRI reports when choosing locations.

A. Nicholson suggested that we may want to organise a meeting to discuss where would be the ideal locations to place bird boxes.

4. Trees

J. Gilbert said with regards to TW2 section in F. Conacher's report planting the trees in a smaller area would hide the bank and enhance the course. K. Stott said this could pose a problem with cutting the surrounding grass. At the moment a strimmer is used to cut the grass but if we put trees in we will no longer be able to cut the grass in this way as it would harm the trees making the job much more time consuming. J. Gilbert said that the trees would need to be planted and we would just have to allow the grass to grow and accept it is for the good of the environment.

J. Gilbert said the tree within the TW4 section which is left hand side of the 10th on the Championship was removed but replanting appeared to be lacking. A. Reid said that the tree had to be removed quickly as it was unsafe and replanting was on hold as they are still not sure what they are planning on doing with this area.

J. Gilbert asked if three Scots Pines could be planted behind the fence of the 4th Tee of the Burnside as recommended under TW5 of the report. A. Reid said this would be done.

J. Gilbert said with regards to TW9 he saw no reason why we couldn't fulfil this recommendation, we could just plant on the side of the Buddon. A. Reid said that he had approached F. Conacher with the same plan and was told that this could not be done, the felling licence had to be followed exactly. A. Reid did say he could find an area which could be far enough away from play.

K. Stott mentioned the felling of trees on the 16th of the Burnside and said this was to allow light and air into the new 16th therefore to prevent disease on the course and K. Stott had communicated this to F. Conacher. J. Gilbert said that if K. Stott had an issue with the trees in this area then he had to communicate his feelings to F. Conacher, but unfortunately if F. Conacher does not agree to the plans then we have to abide by that.

A. Reid said that one way K. Stott might successfully manage to put his ideas across to F. Conacher was through a landscape survey we are looking to establish. This type of survey is a recommendation of the GEO (Golf Environment Organisation) and sets down how we see the layout of the courses over the coming years, which would include tree plans. J. Gilbert agrees that he feels the best way for us to get approval for what we want with regards to trees would be through the GEO recommendation.

5. Environmental Report – STRI Buddon

J. Gilbert said this was a massive report and that he would like A. Reid and S. Mitchell to look through the report and create a 5 year plan for us to follow. S. Mitchell said it was very similar to previous reports and it was all about prioritising. S. Mitchell said that following previous STRI recommendations he had dug out the lake at the 8th and 9th and wanted to wait to see what regenerates before he goes ahead and does more work.

6. GEO

J. Gilbert congratulated A. Reid and his staff for all their hard work in securing the re-accreditation. A. Reid said he underestimated the amount of information gathering required especially as it covers three years' worth of information and that the data requested was not standard information and not information we normally keep. A. Reid did say however on the back of this we have updated our records which should make things easier next time round. A. Reid also said that GEO were making changes to the way information was gathered and that they were reducing the amount of information they needed and that we can update on a yearly basis rather than doing three years all at once.

A. Reid said there was a recommendation from the 2013 GEO Report that we had still not implemented which relates to the establishment of a Management Landscape Survey. As the survey looks at the site as a whole and would lay down what we want for the future, ecological wise, it was recommended that we liaise with Barry Buddon. J. Gilbert

recommended that A. Nicholson and G. Paton write a letter to the Captain of the Barry Buddon.

A. Reid feels if we do not have this established by the next time we are up for re-accreditation then he believes we will not receive the GEO award in the future.

J. Gilbert was quite disappointed that the report did not mention more in depth, Operation Pollinator or our Wildlife Booklet.

7. Any Other Competent Business

J. Gilbert said he would like to make sure the New Golf Centre Development was in line with environmental policies and recommended that he along with A. Reid, K. Blair, G. Duncan, C. Sinclair and I. Frier meet every couple of months.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1130 hours.

Action Points Raised

A.Reid, C. Boath & A.Nicholson	Liaise with regards to setting up a winter bird feeding program
A.Reid & S.Mitchell	Compile a 5 year environmental management plan for the Buddon Links by February 2017
A.Nicholson & G.Paton	Compose a letter to send to Barry Buddon with regards to establishing a Landscape Survey as required by GEO
A.Reid, J.Gilbert & A.Nicholson	Compile Landscape Survey as part of GEO