

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

Parade on Monday 6th March 2017

Present: J Gilbert (Greens Convener), P Sawers, I Frier, G Paton, C Yule

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

Meeting began at 1900 hours.

1. Apologies

L Gordon

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

3. Action Points

J Gilbert said the Strokesaver is well in hand and copies have been seen by himself and Colin McLeod.

Regarding the water and gas supply, A Reid has met with G Duncan. I Frier asked if it was going to be necessary to dig up the rear of the 18th. A Reid replied he was hopeful that they wouldn't need to.

4. Links Superintendents Report

A Reid said there is still work to do next to the 17th tee of the Burnside, but turf is needed to complete it and said he needs to buy in more than just for this job to spread the cost of the haulage.

Practice Nets

J Gilbert said the location of the practice nets seemed perfectly logical to him. A Reid said the location would be between the Portakabins and the road, aiming towards the sea which will hopefully prevent children from playing on it. He said that in the long-term we need to think about the nets even with the simulators, but the position at present would be okay up

to the start of the build for the Open. He said the new building will have an exit towards the Buddon but it wouldn't be good to have a view of the nets from the windows of the new buildings. C Yule suggested that we need to get rid of nets as there would be nowhere to hide them. J Gilbert suggested this could be a discussion for the Pro Shop committee. I Frier agreed and said it can be added to the discussions regarding the warm up facilities.

R&A Roads & Compounds

A Reid said we may be asked to contribute but there have been discussions regarding how to keep the costs down.

P Sawers asked when the plans will be available and said it is difficult to make a decision without seeing them. A Reid replied that plans have been done by Fairhurst, he is just waiting on M Wells from the R&A to authorise. He said he has to contact M Wells regarding another matter so he will remind him. P Sawers said that was a good idea and could A Reid please tell him we need it done so we can apply for planning permission. Now would be a good time as the local elections are coming up.

A Reid said the R&A and Fairhurst are reluctant to use part of 21 Links Parade for access up the path and that they suggested replacing part of the CGLMC wall next to the Starter's Box with gates that can be opened to give more room for turning the corner with large vehicles. P Sawers said she is always an advocate of doing something that's in our own control. J Gilbert agreed.

Regarding the creation of the new road across the Burnside 5th & 17th, A Reid said that the R&A want to avoid traffic going through the Greenkeeping compound and going behind the Championship 10th Green & 11th tee. P Sawers asked if A Reid could let other Trustees see the drawing of what is being proposed so they can see the impact. P Sawers asked when they propose to do this. A Reid said he would prefer it was done when Burnside is closed in late November, and said that would be the easiest option in his opinion. G Duncan is to arrange for the plans to be provided to Trustees.

Health & Safety

J Gilbert enquired as to how the injured staff members are. A Reid replied that they are fine now and back at work.

Fibre Optics

A Reid informed the Committee that the fibre optic work has not yet started. He said it is due to commence in March, and said that it is relatively non-interfering with play but we can take precautions and warn people and move markers when necessary. J Gilbert agreed.

5. Monthly Maintenance Forecasts

Championship

J Gilbert noted that C Boath had mentioned pitch marks in his forecast and asked who is responsible for the Rangers. P Sawers said it is C McLeod, but will be C Sinclair. J Gilbert asked if the Ranger could be sending a report. A Reid said that the Ranger can't be at 54 greens at one time. J Gilbert agreed.

A Reid said he feels the blame lies more with the golfer, not the Ranger. P Sawers agreed the fault lies with the golfer and said any suggestions of a solution would be welcome. C Boath said if you tell a golfer they are not interested. G Paton said golfers not repairing their pitch marks should be identified and contacted via their season ticket details. P Sawers agreed and said a letter should be sent to them. P Sawers said the website should be updated informing golfers that due to pitch marks the Ranger will now be taking notes and golfers will be contacted by Golf Services. P Sawers asked G Duncan to put something in place regarding this.

I Frier asked for the co-operation from green staff during the recent move of Golf Services and the Pro Shop to be acknowledged and thanked them for their assistance.

Burnside

J Gilbert asked if the 14th Burnside is due to be tidied up. A Reid assured him it is scheduled before the end of March.

Buddon Links

P Sawers asked if the lake on 3rd is being cleaned out this month. A Reid said it was and there is a pump going in tomorrow.

6. Minutes of Meeting with Greens Convenor, General Manager and Links Superintendent

J Gilbert spoke about a land character assessment by the STRI. He said it is very detailed and one of a kind. He said the projected cost is estimated at £20,000 at the top end, but G Duncan felt that this could be reduced to £14,000. J Gilbert said it will be passed onto the Finance Committee for approval as we require this for GEO re-verification. A Reid agreed to provide details for the next Finance meeting.

7. STRI Open Venue Data Analysis

J Gilbert presented the STRI report and said he thought it was outstanding. He thought the best we have ever had. J Gilbert said we don't have the luxury of being closed every Sunday for maintenance like St Andrews. I Frier agreed and said it is very impressive report.

J Gilbert said the current green keeping system and operation works very well. P Sawers agreed.

The 60 % annual meadow grass is the one area A Reid would like to improve on as it does bring other issues. He said it is better to have fescue as there is less of a need for fungicide.

J Gilbert asked if we can go public with this information, C Boath informed him that R Windows is here this week and said A Reid and he will speak to him. J Gilbert agreed and said it is a good message to send out.

8. Course Protection

A Reid said that at the Open Championship Committee the course closures policy was agreed. These proposals will now go to greens and full committee. J Gilbert said he fully supported the proposals.

C Yule asked if the course was closed for the same period in 2007. A Reid confirmed that the course will be closed for one day longer in 2018 than it was in 2007.

A Reid explained his fairway protection proposal and said that it is just an extension of what was done for the British Seniors and the Amateur Championship. A McCartney asked if there were any exceptions, will players in the Club Championship and Links Championship have to play off mats. A Reid said there would be no exceptions, and this information will be given to the clubs.

J Gilbert said he has already spoken to clubs regarding this, and they are supportive. Everyone want the course looking at its best.

P Sawers asked if G Duncan can let everyone know, after the next full meeting. She suggested sending communications several times.

8. Any Other Competent Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 1940 hours.

ACTION POINTS

- Arrange copies of the R&A road plans for all Trustees. - G Duncan
- Inform golfers that due to pitch marks the Ranger will now be taking notes and golfers will be contacted by Golf Services. - G Duncan
- Provide a report for Finance Sub-Committee with regards to the Landscape Character Assessment. - G Duncan & A Reid
- Ask R Windows if we can go public with his report. - A Reid & C Boath
- After it has been agreed at the full meeting in April, advise Golf Clubs and Season Ticket holders of the Course Protection Policy for 2018. - G Duncan