

Minutes of CGLMC Ltd Environment Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Greenkeeping Training Room at Greenkeeping Sheds on Wednesday 29th November 2017.

Present: J Gilbert (Environment Convenor), P Sawers, M Wells, G Paton, A Nicholson, I Frier, A Reid, C Boath, S Mitchell

In Attendance: N Cunningham (Greenkeeping Administrator)

The meeting began at 1430 hours.

1. Apologies

C Yule, K Stott

2. Declaration of Interest

There were none.

J Gilbert welcomed everyone to the meeting.

J Gilbert congratulated S Mitchell on his Environmental Plan, adding that the Buddon Course is by far the most ecological diverse of all our courses. J Gilbert was also happy to see that S Mitchell had managed to integrate some of S Vukelic (STRI) comments in to the Environmental Plan.

J Gilbert said with regards to the new tees on the 14th and 17th of the Buddon this would require full committee approval. J Gilbert also said he would like S Mitchell to liaise with M Ebert in regards to this, especially if Seagreen were to go ahead with the pipe plan. A Nicholson asked if Seagreen had given a timescale for their planned work. J Gilbert said nothing at the moment.

J Gilbert stressed that the pond management was very important and asked S Mitchell if additional funds were required. S Mitchell said he did not require any extra funds as all dredging of the current ponds could be done in house and funds may only be required if new pond was needed.

A Reid said that dredging the ponds was a good sand source for us, but we required either a job to put it towards or some sort of storage area. P Sawers agreed and asked if this type of

work could be carried out during the winter months by our greenkeepers. S Mitchell said this would not be a problem as we are only allowed to do 30% a year.

J Gilbert asked S Mitchell if he still had plans to build a causeway over to the island in the middle of the pond between 8th and 9th holes. S Mitchell said he was still planning to do this.

J Gilbert asked if A Reid and S Mitchell were happy with the gorse growing between the new holes. A Reid said he didn't have any concerns and it added to the definition of the area, but it could be cut back if it started to cause a problem. A Nicholson did stress that as per Dr B Taylor's report he also had had concerns with regards to the amount of gorse being removed and the effect on ground nesting birds and rabbits and was happy to see it was growing.

3. Course Managers Summaries

Championship

C Boath said he was happy with the way things are going on the course. Gorse has been removed and has created some good spectator advantage points.

Burnside

As K Stott was not in attendance J Gilbert asked if A Reid could summarise for the Burnside Course. A Reid said there had been good rough management and that not a huge amount of gorse had been removed. A Reid said that a lot of the astro turf on the course was either being replaced with new matting or with grass. M Wells said that we should be trying to get away from astro turf. A Reid said he was looking to do away with it where we can.

Buddon

S Mitchell said he had a few projects in mind as a way to manage the rough. S Mitchell said he was reverting back to a lot of 'Old School' ideas which were cheaper and delivering good results and he had already started to cut down on the use of wetting agents. S Mitchell said he would like to clean out and manage the back drops of the 9th green. J Gilbert said that as S Mitchell's management plan had been passed by the full committee he was happy for this to go ahead.

4. STRI Ecological Report

J Gilbert said that at this point he would like to discuss points 4 and 5 together, as the STRI report related to The Open.

J Gilbert said the removal of gorse had been huge but he felt as The Open does only happen once every ten years this was not unreasonable and any birds would return after The Open.

A Nicholson suggested that after The Open might be a good time for the Course Managers and Dr B Taylor to meet and discuss what they want out of the Landscape Character Assessment (LCA).

J Gilbert said that measures were in place to protect heather and prevent birds nesting to allow spectator routes. C Boath said the heather to be removed from the 7th of the Championship would be moved to the front of the 8th. A Reid mentioned that a couple of bits were not mentioned which would also be managed, 16th and 14th of Buddon as these would be used as car parks.

J Gilbert asked C Boath how he was planning to prevent the birds from nesting in the rough. C Boath said he was planning to run a rake through the rough on a weekly basis.

5. Open Championship

As discussed above

6. Trees Update

J Gilbert stated that A Reid had met with F Conacher in regards to the trees.

A Reid said that per the tree policy all replanting at LHS 9th on the Championship had to be carried out by 30th June 2018 and that they discussed spacing and areas. P Sawers felt that there was a good chance that any trees planted before The Open would be walked on and asked if A Reid could contact the Forestry Commission to ask if we could carry out the replanting after The Open.

A Reid said he had spoken to F Conacher with regards to the Poplar Tree at the left hand side of the 10th on Championship where mounding is currently being added and asked if we could cut it down and replace with a Birch tree. F Conacher said that would not be a problem as long as the rule one for one was adhered to. A Reid also said for safety reasons he would like to either remove completely or trim the tree adjacent to 4th tee of the Burnside.

P Sawers gave approval to remove both trees if necessary.

7. Birds

Bird Boxes

C Boath said he still has to clean and check the boxes and he would also like to replace the boxes on the course so they are in some sort of order.

J Gilbert said per S Vukelic report we should erect a few boxes at the scrub area of the Buddon and if C Boath and S Mitchell could liaise on this matter.

Angus Bird Club

A Nicholson said no report as of yet but he had attended the Angus Bird Clubs AGM in September and that the club now has a monthly rota system in operation and they have been down a couple of times.

A Nicholson suggested it might be a good idea to link up P Ellis's bird ringing report with the Angus Bird Clubs report.

Peter Ellis Bird Ringing

C Boath confirmed he had contacted P Ellis but no report was available at the moment. P Ellis had however been down to the course six times and confirmed he had managed to ring a young owl and a young woodpecker.

8. Projects

J Gilbert said we had done a few environmental projects over the years and this is something we should continue to do. P Sawers agreed but asked if this could be something we think about after The Open. J Gilbert agreed.

9. The Way Forward – How Green Could We Be

M Wells said we do well as a club on the environmental front but there are still ways we can improve when it comes to sustainability and we are in a good position to become a flagship venue. M Wells said he had been in discussion with Doosan with regards to a Hydrogen Fuel Cell unit for The Open and this is something he would maybe like to see left at Carnoustie as a legacy. If this was possible then the amount of electricity it produces would allow us to be taken off grid and in fact could also help to power local schools, businesses etc.

M Wells asked how we measure our success with the work that is being carried out on the courses, do we have previous data to compare with. A Nicholson said unfortunately we don't at the moment but the visits and reports that we are carrying out now will allow this in the future.

M Wells said now the Seagreen project seems to be back on the cards and probably would now comprise of different individuals from the last time, was it worth having discussions again as to what is in it for us. P Sawers said that the original plan was due to run round the edge of the Buddon and on the MOD land which we were happy with, but couldn't harm us to approach them again.

10. Any Other Competent Business

A Reid said he had received an email this morning from Dr B Taylor with regards to possible visit dates to start the LCA. M Wells asked what we wanted out of the assessment. J Gilbert said that probably the main reason was when people question the work we are carrying out on the course, we can say we have done our homework and have consulted various groups in regards to the work. P Sawers said we really need to promote the LCA report.

P Sawers asked what the restoration plans were for after The Open. A Reid said the scale of any damage will be dictated by the weather, but he was not concerned as everything will eventually grow back.

M Wells said that he had been in touch with local Bee Keepers and that we are really interested in using locally sourced items in the new Golf Centre.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1540 hours.