

Minutes SDDR 2015v

The Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens

The Therfield Regulation – Registered Charity No. 277881

Meeting of the Residents of the Special Drainage District of Royston
Held on Thursday 12th February 2015 7.15pm in the Fordham Hall, Therfield

Present. Six Conservators, 9 members of the public and the Clerk

1. To read the Notice of Meeting. The notice was read
2. To Appoint a Chairman of the meeting. Proposed M Weatherhead. No further nominations. Elected.
3. Apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr R Kennedy and Cllr J Davison.
4. To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held 13th February 2014. Agreed
5. To Elect one Conservator to fill the vacancy. Neil Guttridge was proposed. There were no further nominations. He was declared elected.
6. To receive a report from the Chairman of the Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens. The Chairman paid tribute to the work done by the Conservators who give their time and expertise freely. Welcomed the new conservator, Teddy Faure Walker who would fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mrs S Pearse.
 - Scrub and tree clearance continues with the input of Natural England, under our HLS agreement. With their permission we have carried out work on Church Hill and the spinney south of the eighth fairway, land managed under HLS agreements by Robert Law and the Royston Golf Club. The hedge alongside the Baldock Road has been replanted to enable better maintenance.
 - At the request of Natural England we have applied for planning permission to install a stock fence on the eastern side of New Road to ensure any straying sheep do not cause accidents on New Road.
 - The relationship with all our tenants and their success is important to us. Royston Golf Club has appointed a new professional and is aggressively pursuing new members, particularly youth members. The Archery Club continue to shoot and cause no problems. The Rugby Club have had teams promoted to higher divisions and their youth policy is paying obvious dividends. Royston Hockey Club is still hoping to install an All Weather Pitch, which would also be available to hire.

We have recently granted permission for Royston Runners to place a container at the entrance to the Heath for their equipment.

- Large numbers of people continue to use the Heath Sports Club.
- The Web Site is up and running, conservators-therfield-Heath.org.uk, the clerk is pleased that so far no one has found any spelling mistakes. A visitor counter to be added.
- We have applied for outline planning permission on a detached part of the Heath, fronting Briary Lane and Sun Hill. If this application is successful we will make application to The Planning Inspectorate And the Charity Commission for permission to sell this piece of land and replace it with a piece of equal area and amenity value as required by the Commons Act. If these three applications are successful the land will be sold for development and all profits will be reinvested in the Heath for the benefit of all users of the Heath: the lovers of butterflies, birds , flowers and insects; walker's, joggers and dog walkers; all kinds and ages of people who use the Heath for all kinds of sports and those who simply enjoy the unique place that is their Therfield Heath.

7. To take questions from Residents of the Special Drainage District and the residents of Therfield. Mr Stewart complimented the Conservators on the web site. He asked if accounts and the Annual report could be published here. The Chairman agreed. In response to questions the clerk explained the rational and the legal process needed to sell the Briary Lane site. N Guttridge pointed out the need to sell or exchange land was anticipated in the original Act and Trust Deed. The Chairman pointed out the land exchange which had taken place when the A505 was made into dual carriageway.
8. Date of the next meeting. February 2016

The meeting closed at 7.34