

The Conservators of Therfield Heath and Greens

**The Therfield Regulation Trust
c/o Royston Golf Club, Baldock Rd, Royston, SG8 5BG
Registered Charity No. 277881
Chair: Clare Swarbrick**

Clerk: Carol Fossick
Email: clerk@therfieldheath.org.uk

Summary Minutes for Thursday 25 March 2021 (Zoom Meeting)

Apologies for Absence

None :

Declarations of interest:

Clerk's husband is running as a candidate for the Liberal Democrats in the May 2021 local elections. Clerk's husband remains secretary of FOTH also.

Approve the minutes of the meeting on 25 February 2021

Approved.

1. The fence on the Baldock Road

10 years ago the fence was installed to prevent rabbits from the field opposite damaging the newly planted hedge. Today that field was now a building site for 300 houses. Several access points in the hedge planting and some gaps which still need to be filled out by planting – the fence supports the hedge and also will be a barrier to cats from the new houses over the road in addition to keeping litter from blowing off the road onto the heath. Discussion that layering the hedge was also an option - longer term. Discussion on the local soil conditions and that this was poor chalk land. When fence was installed there was some opposition. Overall the view was that there was an argument to be made to keep the fence. Clerk to progress this.

2. Governance s28G or 28E.

Question was asked of NE about the status of the Conservators and if they should be deemed s28G authority. NE lawyers now accepted that the setup of the Conservators was under a general act of parliament which would lead to them being a s28G authority.

3. Affinity Water Pumping Station

Initial consultations have started by AWL regarding their s38 proposal. Discussed in detail based on the known details. Views expressed that a better approach was a s16 land swap which would enable all the necessary land to be properly secured with less impact on the landscape. Conservators were aware of the route of paths 9 and 10 being close to this site. No-one spoke in favour of the s38 that AWL proposed.

4. Leases and Tenants etc _____

Various discussions regarding Café works.

Dogs on training site were troubling the horses who are trained on the gallops.

Discussion with golf club regarding buggies and the club house building.

5. General Land Title issue and Lease holdings in general

To be part of the governance review.

Heath and Greens Maintenance

- Warden update - interviewing
- Trees Tender - await replies
- Trust's S38 application For 10 bollards on Therfield Road – approved with amendments
- Footpath 9 and 10 Ask that HCC do the work

Other items to Discuss

- Litter – NHDC starting a “take it home” scheme ; keen to support this.
- Notification from NHDC regarding rat problem. Need to take steps to resolve this quickly in light of concerns raised.
- Gliders (small unpowered) : work with party to ensure that the location and set up were suitable.
- Horses - bye laws allowed riding if there was a legal right and there appeared to be one.
- Fair dates - These are acceptable. Costs as per earlier years (no increase)
- Kite Festival (Sunday 1 August) – need to assess and communicate grass cutting costs and the concerns of cars on SSSI land
- Neighbours (Flats) tree email and fence : we will await results of our own tree survey.

Date of next meeting : 22 April 2021