

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: Nick Keep

Clerk: Paddy Grove

Email:clerk@therfieldheath.org.uk



Summary Minutes for the meeting held on Thursday 27th April 2023 at 7pm in the Black Barn

Abbreviations may be used to identify individuals:

Chair or NKe: Nick Keep, CSw: Clare Swarbrick; Rgr: Ranger (Cat Wright); CSm: Colin Smith; CHa: Clive Hall; BHa: Ben Harrop; RLa: Robert Law; JKl: John King;
Clerk or PGr: Paddy Grove

Item ID	Description	Minutes
04/23-1	Attendees and apologies for Absence Apologies received in advance from BHa	Present: RLa, CHa, NKe, CSm, CSw Clerk, Rgr Absent: BHa, JKl
04/23-2	Declarations of interest: (see * * for any relevant minute details)	No new declarations.
04/23-3	Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2023 (Clerk) - see Paper 1 (main minutes) and papers 2 and 3 (summary minutes for Feb and Mar respectively)	Approved once the above changes made
04/23-4	Major items to AGREE	
04/23-4.1	<u>Containers on the heath</u> Reach clear agreement on next steps to be taken.	Discussions about containers in the main car park. These are currently unlicensed, and Conservators prefer that they be removed. The Conservators had invited Royston Runners to make a case for retaining theirs, but had not received a formal response. Agreement that RR should be given a deadline by which container should be removed.
04/23-4.2	<u>Tennis pro hut</u>	Discussion about tennis coaching hut and associated commercial activity on the heath, which do not appear to have relevant consents or licence. Discussions have been held with Royston Tennis Club to try to resolve.
04/23-4.3	<u>Kite Festival move proposal</u> Agree Conservators' position on kite festival that can be communicated to Rotary.	Options are to either cut the SSSI (same area as previous years) for one more year, or cancel the event because we told had previously Rotary we wouldn't be willing to do that. Agreed on the following position: kites can be flown on former golf practice area, which we would have to cut. Overflow car park would

		also need cutting, and maybe area beyond. Rotary must produce a concrete plan for 2024 festival within the next 6 weeks, to avoid these issues next year. Charge for cutting the SSSI will be passed on to Rotary, payable within one month of the event. No vehicles west of the wood on the SSSI except for setting up / taking down. Ground nesting birds not to be disturbed.
04/23-4.4	<p><u>Event requests</u></p> <p>Approval sought for event requests received by clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scouts movie night - CRC student navigation exercise 	<p>Movie night: Conservators are in general supportive of the event, but only if it is adequately licenced and Café owner is not opposed.</p> <p>Agreed to support if they get licence, and there are no closed areas of the common. So for example, if the terms of the licence require fences and security that would not be acceptable.</p> <p>CRC students: Conservators agreed there should be no access for minibuses and barriers won't be opened. Drivers will have to drop off and park elsewhere. CRC may also need to engage golf club re proximity to 11th.</p>
04/23-5	Other updates or major items for discussion	
04/23-5.1	<p><u>Countryside Stewardship</u></p> <p>Update on Higher Tier CS application for 2023+.</p> <p><u>HLS/ES 2022/23</u></p> <p>Update from JKl/CHa on application for payments under existing scheme. Application form received, due for return by 15th May</p>	<p>Application due in tomorrow, believed pretty much ready to go. Will include initial application and annex, common land supplement, and maps.</p> <p>Hope to get scheme offer by end August.</p> <p>We still need to be clear how we will run the scheme that we have applied for. Needs to involve tenants and stinholders.</p> <p>Also need to engage with the public. Could have an open meeting when/if there's something to announce.</p>
04/23-6	Health & Safety, Accidents and Incidents	
04/23-6.1	<p><u>Accident and Incident reports</u></p> <p>HoC/Rgr to advise of any accidents or incidents on Heath & Greens since last meeting, and any other H&S-related items that Conservators should be aware of</p>	No incidents
04/23-7	Leases, Licences and Tenants etc	
04/23-8	Finance Matters	
04/23-9	Heath & Greens Conservation update	
04/23-9.1	<u>Update from Ranger</u>	Rgr working with JM volunteers tomorrow to work on ivy covering dragon's teeth in the car

		<p>park. Height barriers to be replaced/repainted free of charge in main car park thanks to JM.</p> <p>Discussion on best approach and materials for completing the steps in woodland. Ranger actioned to contact commercial installers for advice and/or quote.</p>
04/23-10	Projects updates	
04/23-10.1	<u>Governance reform</u> Any progress or update?	No update
04/23-10.2	<u>Bollards installation on Therfield Rd</u> (RLa, Rgr) Plans or progress?	No update
04/23-10.3	<u>Barriers (height restriction to Therfield rd), and repainting</u> Plans or progress?	No update
04/23-11	Legal Actions, Disputes, Wayleaves and related issues	
04/23-12	Update from the Clerk IT updates – next steps.	
04/23-13	Actions/Updates from previous meetings (Items in green are done or being progressed, no update necessary. Others are uncertain or open)	
04/23-14	Any Other Business	<p>Heads up of redevelopment of Roman Way site, result of which the Scouts can no longer use outside area, and would like to use Heath more. Conservators have no particular issue with this except that it is indicative of the problem that HCC just assume the Heath can pick up the slack of reduced recreation facility. We should take the opportunity to educate the Scouts on appropriate use and respect of the heath.</p> <p>Kelshall footpath issue including our objection has gone to Planning Inspectorate for decision. Expect clerk to be consulted by PInS with deadline to respond.</p>
04/23-15	Date of next meeting	
	Conservator meeting 25 th May 2023, Black Barn	Rescheduling likely to be required due to several people's unavailability