

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



Minutes for the meeting held on Tuesday 30th May 2023 at 7pm in the Black Barn

Abbreviations may be used to identify individuals:

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

Item ID	Description	Notes / minutes
05/23-1	Apologies for Absence	Present: NKe, CHa, RLa, CSw, CSm PGr, Rgr Apologies received in advance from JKi, BHa
05/23-2	Declarations of interest: (see * * for any relevant minute details)	
05/23-3	Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2023	Approved (but summary had probably not been seen by most as it was only been prepared shortly before the meeting)
05/23-4	Major items to AGREE	
05/23-4	<u>Response to Sir Oliver Heald MP regarding the kite festival</u> Discuss and agree response to be sent to Sir Oliver	Sir Oliver had written to the Conservators expressing concern in response to Rotary's public statement that Conservators had banned the kite festival on the heath from next year. A delegation of Conservators had met with Rotary to discuss the situation and Chair had drafted a response to Sir Oliver. Chair was actioned to complete and issue the draft, copying in Rotary and Royston Town Councillors. Also to request permission from Sir Oliver to put a copy on Conservators public website
05/23-4	<u>Quotes for preparation of licence templates</u> Provisional quotations received from our legal advisors for preparation of licence templates suitable for sports activities on the heath – SSSI and non-SSSI variants.	Paper presented with quotation to prepare two license templates, with some noted assumptions and conditions. They noted they won't offer expertise on laws governing SSSIs, but it was agreed that CHa knows as much as anyone on this subject. Approved to instruct solicitors to proceed.
05/23-4	<u>Event requests</u>	Seed collection: Decision formally delegated to Rgr. Advice from Conservators that we need to be careful especially with collecting for private

	<p>Approval sought for event requests received by clerk:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seed collection by private landowner - Seed collection for Kew Millennium Seed Bank, - Junior Park Run enquiry - FOTH Yoga event 	<p>land if it could be to the detriment to our biodiversity. There was strong support for the Kew request however.</p> <p>Junior Park Run: Not approved. General concern about pressure on heath on Sunday mornings when other established activities happen. Conservators see this as an opportunity to remind NHDC that lack of provision for leisure remains an issue and there is unsustainable pressure on the heath.</p> <p>Yoga approved.</p>
05/23-4	<p><u>Section 106 claim</u></p> <p>Approval to send claim for Section 106 funds for Nov-Apr</p>	<p>Approved to send, once updated with correct figures covering costs related to employment of Rgr and former head of conservation. Addition of advisory about possible future claims against the funds for provision of public toilets access</p>
05/23-4	<p><u>IT spend</u></p> <p>Clerk recommends purchase of some hardware / software for IT security</p>	<p>Approved purchases, estimated cost ~£200</p>
05/23-5	<p>Other updates or major items for discussion</p>	
05/23-6	<p>Health & Safety, Accidents and Incidents</p>	
05/23-6	<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>	<p>Nothing major, some increased fly tipping which is believed likely to be related to recycling centre policy change requiring people to show evidence of residence in Herts to tip at Royston recycling centre.</p> <p>The recently repainted barrier on the entry to the main car park has been damaged and is now a hazard that needs removing. For now it was proposed to put a chain across the entrance with advice to 'please use other entrance'.</p>
05/23-7	<p>Leases, Licences and Tenants etc</p>	
05/23-8	<p>Finance Matters</p>	
05/23-8	<p>Accounts and budget report to end April available – see Paper 14 and Paper 15 respectively. Questions to clerk/chair welcome.</p>	
05/23-9	<p>Heath & Greens Conservation update</p>	
05/23-9	<p><u>Update from Ranger</u></p>	<p>Drone experiment to count pasque flowers has been done – images are being processed.</p> <p>Suggestion for public engagement meeting in September.</p>
05/23-1	<p>Projects updates</p>	
05/23-1	<p>Legal Actions, Disputes, Wayleaves and related issues</p>	

05/23-1 Update from the Clerk (Clerk) IT updates	Clerk reported that migration to Microsoft was nearly complete. It was agreed that subscription to previous provider can then be cancelled.
05/23-1 Actions/Updates from previous meetings (Items in green are done or being progressed, no update necessary. Others are uncertain or open)	
05/23-1 Any Other Business	
05/23-1 Date of next meeting	
Conservator meeting 22 nd June 2023, Black Barn	

Summary