

**08/23-1 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: Nicholas Keep

Site Manager &amp; Clerk: Caroline Crang

Email:clerk@therfieldheath.org.uk

**Summary Minutes for the meeting held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 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: SM/Clerk or CCr: Caroline Crang

Item ID	Description	
08/23-1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies received in advance from JKi Introduce Site Manager Caroline Crang	JKi Also present: Watch Commander Royston Fire Service
08/23-2	<b>Declarations of interest:</b> (see * * for any relevant minute details)	BH has interest with Royston Tennis Club.
08/23-3	<b>Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th July 2023</b>	<b>APPROVED.</b>
08/23-4	<b>Major items to discuss</b>	
08/23-4.1	<u>Dog bins</u>	<b>AGREED:</b> A pilot of one new 90L dog bin will be trialled, to see if TBS can manage capacity. <b>ACTION:</b> TBS to be contacted to see if it's suitable to proceed. Point raised that council have legal responsibility to ensure green spaces are free of dog waste. When Rgr contacted NHDC the conclusion was that the land owner is responsible to deal with dog waste on their land.
08/23-4.2	<u>Countryside Stewardship Scheme</u> Current situation and way forward to be presented	RLa informs that his SBI is no longer associated with the Heath as it was withdrawn when HLS and BPS ended. SBI should not affect ability to claim, as dual-use is available. NE have informed

		<p>us that multiple SBIs might mean scheme is rejected by RPA.</p> <p>Discussion around if the scheme will be worth the financial compensation, how to better understanding the requirements of RPA and NE and how this would impact funding of the maintenance of the SSSI.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> to wait for formal offer.</p>
08/23-4.3	<p><u>Code of conduct</u></p> <p>Printed Copy to be signed by all Conservators</p>	<p>Those present signed.</p>
08/23-4.4	<p><u>Gate</u></p> <p>Current Position and further actions</p>	<p>Gates and posts have been taken out. Stones have not been removed. Statement has not been produced confirming that no such infringement will occur again.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> to send another letter requiring removing stones and produce the statement, within one week.</p>
08/23-4.5	<p><u>Abandoned Vehicle Sun Hill Common</u></p>	<p>Police were informed and NHDC have provided protocol in how to deal with abandoned vehicle.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Rgr to put notice on the car.</p>
08/23-4.6	<p><u>Sustainability Event Proposal</u></p>	<p>Discussion if this event is worthwhile. Agreed that the event has developed since last time and it would be a good trial.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> to purchase gazebo and materials needed.</p> <p>Focus option agreed: Balance of Nature.</p>
08/23-4.7	<p><u>Extension of 5<sup>th</sup> Ladies Tee to old Junior Tee</u></p> <p>This is to spread wear over a larger area as more veterans are also playing off front tee.</p>	<p>Restoration doesn't require S38. Levelling is within the powers of Conservators. Temporary fencing requires S38 exemption.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> that Conservators give permission to level using their statutory powers.</p> <p><b>AGREED:</b> that we will consult that the work has been approved subject to NE permission.</p>

<b>08/23-5</b>	<b>Event and other requests</b> Approval for requests received by clerk	
08/23-5.1	Kite Festival 2024	Rotary have submitted application for usual date and usual location.  <b>AGREED:</b> That they are allowed to hold the kite festival subject to statutory permissions including S38, and permission from NE. They must provide evidence of the permissions they will seek.
08/23-5.2	Welly Walks Suggested a more general discussion of a set of walking routes	<b>APPROVED</b> To be reviewed in January. <b>ACTION:</b> Confirm if they are charging for event.
<b>08/23-6</b>	<b>Other updates</b>	
08/23-6.1	Governance	
08/23-6.2	<u>Byway Therfield 36 and Footpath Therfield 11</u> Update after site visit to Byway 36 Hay green	HCC have confirmed surface will remain grass but will be repaired. It is requested that information on the current route of the BOAT is gathered. We will approach Parish council to brief on repairs. <b>APPROVED.</b>  <b>AGREED:</b> Sand must be removed from Therfield Green.  <b>ACTION:</b> RLa to approach Fox and Duck.
08/23-6.3	<u>Tree Application Ivy Farm</u>	<b>AGREED:</b> No formal comment will be made.
08/23-6.4	<u>Planning Application opposite Therfield Rec</u>	<b>AGREED:</b> No formal comment will be made.
<b>08/23-7</b>	<b>Health &amp; Safety, Accidents and Incidents</b>	
08/23-7.1	<u>Accident and Incident reports</u>	
<b>08/23-8</b>	<b>Leases, Licences and Tenants etc</b>	
08/23-8.1	- Any further engagement with Runners?	Runners don't think suggested charge is acceptable charge for container lease.  <b>ACTION:</b> Inventory of containers to be collated, with justifiable reasons for having a container on the common. E.g., archery. Next steps would be to apply for statutory permissions. After

		would be collating and refurbishing the containers. <b>ACTION:</b> Request container owners provide inventory. <b>AGREED:</b> Conservators want fewer containers, statutory permissions for those left, and the containers present to be refurbished.
08/23-8.2	Tenant	<b>AGREED:</b> Next steps would be to find valuer for tenant. It is suggested the Conservators value the club themselves, as finding a valuer would delay the process and renegotiate lease. <b>AGREED:</b> to write to tenant.
<b>08/23-9</b>	<b>Finance Matters</b>	
08/23-9.1	Accounts and budget report to end July available	
08/23-9.2	Charity Commission Account	An alias had been created aliases for Clerk and Ranger emails, to deal with issues with some websites requiring personal accounts.
08/23-9.3	Tresorit Cancellation Subscription Due start of October.	
<b>08/23-10</b>	<b>Heath &amp; Greens Conservation update</b>	
08/23-10	<u>Update from Ranger</u>	Rgr to circulate weekly update as usual.
<b>08/23-11</b>	<b>Projects updates</b>	
08/23-11	<u>Licence templates</u> Any review or actions required?	
08/23-11	<u>Bollards installation on Therfield Rd</u> (RLa, Rgr) Plans or progress?	RL to meet with contractor after harvest.
08/23-11	<u>Dragon's teeth</u>	Meeting with cricket to confirm date to install, now that season is over.
08/23-11	<u>Rugby electrics</u>	
<b>08/23-12</b>	<b>Legal Actions, Disputes, Wayleaves and related issues</b>	
<b>08/23-13</b>	<b>Update from the Clerk</b> In abeyance	
<b>08/23-14</b>	<b>Actions/Updates from previous meetings</b> (Items in green are done or being progressed, no update necessary. Others are uncertain or open)	
<b>08/23-15</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	<b>Fire Department</b> Discussion on bbq issue (4 have been found) with fire

department. Fire service can go every week to engage and educate. Would be best to target when we think the highest amount of activity. Fire department do report to police. Have 4x4 with fire hose now. Recommend improving signage.

It's raised that majority of issues are anecdotally teenagers and a targeted information approach may be education in schools. Fire department already target these age groups in schools.

Department recommend should always contact fire department if a fire or bbq has been lit on the Heath.

Suggested meet up April/May to confirm strategy for 2024.

#### **Benches**

Discussion around whether refurbishing benches is worthwhile.

**AGREED:** No new benches

**AGREED:** People can pay to have a plaque on a refurbished bench. Policy to be drafted

#### **08/23-16 Dates of next meetings**

Governance meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September, 7:30-8:30 pm, Teams (Conservators only)- Propose to cancel this

Stakeholder and Countryside Stewardship Consultation 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 7.30pm Lower Town Hall

Conservator meeting 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 7 pm Black Barn