

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: Maria Barber

Email: sitemanager@therfieldheath.org.uk



Summary minutes for the meeting held on 25th July 2024 at 7pm at the Black Barn

Abbreviations may be used to identify individuals:

Chair or NKe: Nick Keep, CSm: Colin Smith; CHa: Clive Hall;

BHa: Ben Harrop; RLa: Robert Law; JKl: John King; Rev Carol Newnham

Item	Description
1	Apologies for Absence Maria arrived at 4.4 and Clive at 5.2
2	Declarations of Interest: (see * * for any relevant minute details)
3	Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2024 June meeting minutes - Approved.
4	Major items to discuss
4.1	Countryside Stewardship Scheme Update. CS scheme fully withdrawn from. SFI scheme is a possibility would like PIFs redefining to fairways, tees and greens.
4.3	Tennis Nick to chase re the lease.
4.4.	Autumn Cutting and Scrub Cutting was discussed in detail and it was concluded to ask Eastern Counties Straw to cut and collect as much as possible Golf club to do the steep slopes, Penn Hill and Church Hill. Following, if necessary, obtain a quote from Herts & Cambs for the remaining areas The team from Van Stomp are due in August to work 80-100 hours collecting ragwort. Rob to coordinate
4.5	Natural England and ORNEC It was agreed by all of the Conservators not to appeal.
4.6	Planning applications 24/01371/FP at Hillcrest And Land At Tussocks, The Causeway Therfield SG8 9PP No comment.
5	Project/Task updates

5.1	<p>ROW</p> <p>Papers</p> <p>Clive has started a paper collating the necessary information and arguments.</p>
5.2	<p>Affinity water emergency works</p> <p>Work had been carried out but not to a good enough standard. All of the manhole covers need levelling properly.</p> <p>Colin to follow this up. Rob may be able to assist.</p> <p>Maria sent emails to AW earlier this month about work on boreholes</p>
6	<p>Health & Safety, Accidents and incidents</p> <p>All incidents are logged in Sharepoint.</p> <p>Large objects on the heath</p> <p>This was initially dealt with by Colin. Maria contacted NHDC to report the fly tipping. They agreed to send a contractor to collect the remaining items.</p> <p>Broken branch</p> <p>Colin organised for this to be cleared.</p> <p>Complaint re dogs</p> <p>FOTH replied to the complainant.</p>
7	<p>Leases, Licenses and Tenants etc</p>
7.1	<p>Heath Café</p> <p>Update</p> <p>Minutes 17th July 2024</p> <p>The scaffolding is due to be put up at the end of August/start of September. 50% of the invoice has been paid.</p> <p>Colin is researching the possibility of installing solar panels including who would own them and the logistics of selling the energy etc. The proposal will be discussed at a later date.</p>
7.2	<p>Golf Club</p> <p>One of the Directors of the Golf Club will be retiring in September and there is still no General Manager. Colin to meet with them at the end of July to talk through the grass cutting.</p>
7.3	<p>Rugby</p> <p>No update.</p> <p>The Conservators are pleased to see people playing cricket and rounders at the Heath recently.</p>
8	<p>Events and Requests</p>
8.1	<p>Bat walk, FOTH, 10th September</p> <p>Heath use form</p> <p>All agreed for this to go ahead. Maria to reply.</p>

8.2	<p>Hertfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy</p> <p>All agreed not to respond to this as the Heath will be included automatically as an SSSI.</p>
8.3	<p>Trees on the boundary</p> <p>All confirmed that the resident should fund their own tree surgeon.</p> <p>Clerk to write to all nearby residents (Lankester Rd, Heath Ave and Stake Piece Rd) regarding the trees on the boundary and dumping rubbish include details of the appropriate law.</p>
9	<p>Finance Matters</p>
9.1	<p>Accounts</p> <p>June accounts</p> <p>The Trust received £16 interest. Clive to look into the interest recording.</p>
9.2	<p>Banking</p>
9.3	<p>Budget</p> <p>See Budget 2024</p>
10	<p>Legal Actions, Disputes, Wayleaves and related issues</p>
11	<p>Any Other business</p> <p>Overflowing bin update</p> <p>The contractor is going to install an extra 90L bin near the current overflowing bin to see if that rectifies the situation.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Therfield Chapel bin has moved on to the Trust land.</p> <p>Clive to meet with Homestart on 5th August to discuss the proposed event.</p> <p>NE refused permission for the Trust to cut the kite festival area. Other options for the Rotary are in discussion, possibly holding the festival every two years or later in August. There is also the potential option from Letchworth Rugby club to host the event.</p>
12	<p>Staffing strategy (Conservators Only).</p> <p>Conservators discussed what to do as Site Manager preferred candidate did not take post.</p>
13	<p>Date of next meetings</p> <p>7pm, 22nd August 2024 Black Barn</p> <p>7pm 12th September 2024 Upper Town Hall Open Meeting and SDDR by-election</p> <p>7pm 26th September 2024 Black Barn</p>