

MEETING OF THE MCDONALD PUBLIC PARK ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES

MCDONALD GOLF CLUB, HOSPITAL ROAD, ELLON

MONDAY 22 APRIL 2019

Present: Trustees, K Adam, I Davidson, A Forsyth, A Kloppert, G Owen and R Thomson

Apologies: Trustees, S Duncan, J Gifford, A Hassan, P Johnston, A Stirling and I Taylor

Officers: A Roe (Acting Formartine Area Manager), A Lennox (Acting Area Committee Officer) and B Shand (Principal Landscape Officer, Infrastructure Services)

1. A WALK IN THE MCDONALD GOLF CLUB

Trustee Davidson thanked Ellon Golf Club for the informative walk. The Trustees felt that the work of the volunteers who litter pick in McDonald Public Park was exemplary as the Park looked very clean and tidy.

2. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2018

The Trustees had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the minute of the meeting of 29 October 2018.

It was **noted** that the Byelaws were mentioned in the Minute and the Trustees agreed that these should be reviewed. Trustees **agreed** that this should be on the next agenda. The Principle Landscape Services Officer advised that Landscape Services were looking into relevant Byelaws across Aberdeenshire.

3. UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS OF MCDONALD PARK – “LOOKING AHEAD” (VERBAL REPORT)

Ms Lynne Gilbert was in attendance to represent the Friends of McDonald Park. Ms Gilbert provided a verbal update of the works carried out by the group this year.

Last year they had concentrated on tree planting within the park. This year they have been planting bulbs and snowbells in McDonald Park and Caroline’s Well Wood and have been looking at plants that squirrels will not eat. They are improving the burn for water voles.

They have set new dates for volunteer work in the park:

26 May – 10.30 am – Cleaning benches

23 June – 10.30 am – Litter pick

Date set for their AGM Thursday 25 July 2019 at 10.30 am.

Ms Gilbert asked if the Landscape Services Department works could be done in a more sensitive manner as she felt that the use of vehicles within the woods was excessive and was concerned about the environmental impact of such vehicles.

The Principal Landscape Services Officer explained that due to time and resources they use squads of 3 people who can be transported in these vehicles around the park to empty bins, dog waste bins and general tidy up. However, they have requested extra help from the Waste Services Department to empty the dog waste bins and they do not empty bins without the use of a vehicle due to Health & Safety Manual Handling Regulations to reduce the amount of lifting and moving involved.

Ms Gilbert also asked if there could be regular attendance from Landscape Services Department at their meetings. The Principal Landscape Services Officer anticipated that a representative from the Landscape Services Department would attend every meeting however due to work schedules this was not always possible.

Ms Gilbert was looking ahead at future meetings and raised concerns that there was no ability to have a question and answer session and would like a 20/30-minute slot incorporated into the next meeting with the Trustees. The Chair stated that a question and answer session is not always beneficial as Trustees or Officers may not be able to answer questions at the meeting. The Chair explained that if they had any questions to email these to the Area Manager, in advance, who could approach the appropriate Service for a response and feedback at the next meeting.

Trustees expressed sympathy for the group and believed a format for a question and answer session could be considered for the next meeting. The group was asked if they had any concerns they wished to raise or discuss this evening, no concerns at this time.

Trustees **agreed** that this should be on the next agenda.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was proposed that the next meeting would be held at the end of September 2019, date to be advised.