

MEETING OF THE MCDONALD PUBLIC PARK ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES

MEETING HELD BY SKYPE

MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Trustees I Davidson (Chair), K Adam, A Forsyth, J Gifford, A Hassan, A Kloppert, L Mcallister and A Stirling

Apologies: Trustees, S Duncan, P Johnston, G Owen and I Taylor

Officers: E Brown (Formartine Area Manager), C Young (Area Committee Officer), M Ingram (Senior Solicitor), A McIntyre (Principal Landscape Officer), O Deeming (Landscape Services Officer) and D Brown (Countryside Ranger)

1. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2020

The Trustees had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the minute of the meeting of 16 March 2020, subject to the following updates:

- On page 1 in the final paragraph, Mike's surname was corrected to "Morrice"
- On page 2 in the second paragraph, there was a spelling correction to read "dog fouling"

2. WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN – VERBAL UPDATE FROM LANDSCAPE SERVICES

The Landscape Services Officer updated the Trustees on progress with the Woodland Management Plan. He advised that he had been surveying all dead diseased and dangerous trees and any in such a condition would be felled, especially those near residential housing. He also updated that the hedge around McDonald woods had just been cut.

3. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Fence between Caroline's Well Wood and the Former Academy Site

Lynn Gilbert of the Friends of McDonald Park asked whether the fencing would be moved back to its correct position as assurance previously been given that this would be done.

The Area Manager updated that the fence would be removed as part of the development of the site and the boundary line may or may not be marked. The Principal Landscape Officer highlighted that the old demarcation posts were still visible.

Lynn also highlighted the concerns of The Scottish Woodland Trust regarding the former Academy Site being proposed for housing, in terms of any trees being removed in the future if they blocked the light for the new properties.

The Area Manager confirmed that The Scottish Woodland Trust had made representation in respect of the planning application and so their concerns would be considered as part of the full information presented to the Formartine Area Committee. It was highlighted that the site was not under the jurisdiction of the Trustees.

Curling Pond

Trustee Davidson raised that the old curling pond was often odorous when it was wet.

The Landscape Services Officer advised that he had discussed this with the Flood Defence Team who had advised that a pumping station would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds which was money that would be better utilised elsewhere. They were content with the current situation with the pond. However, any older trees that were dying due to the flooding would need to be removed next summer as it would not be safe to remove them when the area was wet.

Modley Burn

Trustee Kloppert asked about the condition of the Modley Burn following the recent flooding.

The Landscape Services Officer advised that whenever the burn needed to be cleared then staff would attend to remove any blockages. The banks of the burn were eroding but there was no budget at present to enable this to be remedied, but should future funding become available it would be desirable to add gabions at the section behind the old garages at Gordon Park and liaison would take place with the Flood Defence Team.

Littering in McDonald Park

Trustee Kloppert asked about the usage of McDonald Park over this summer and whether there had been any additional littering.

The Landscape Services Officer advised that he had not been aware of any more littering than usual but thanks was given to members of the McDonald Golf Club who had assisted in litter picking. Trustee Davidson noted that she had also seen more members of the public out litter picking over the recent months.

In terms of the condition of the park, the Landscape Services Officer advised that very few trees had come down, despite flooding and high winds experienced this year.

Path connecting Castleton Development to Town Centre

Trustee Davison asked for an update and the Area Manager confirmed that the proposed path would no longer be within the boundaries of McDonald Park. The team working on the project had progressed to working on more detailed designs, but the works had been delayed due to the ongoing pandemic.

McDonald Golf Course

Mike Morrice from the Golf Club had nothing additional to report but advised that much of the recent flooding had been on the opposite side of the road, with houses behind the Royal Mail building experiencing high volumes of water. Lynn suggested that the removal of some vegetation from this area in recent years may have contributed.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be arranged for a Monday evening in March 2021.