

# MEETING OF THE MCDONALD PUBLIC PARK ENDOWMENT TRUSTEES

## MEETING HELD BY SKYPE

MONDAY 29 MARCH 2021

**Present:** Trustees I Davidson (Chair), J Gifford, A Hassan, A Kloppert, L McAllister and A Stirling and I Taylor

**Apologies:** Trustees K Adam, S Duncan, A Forsyth, P Johnston and G Owen

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

### 1. MINUTE OF MEETING HELD ON 9 NOVEMBER 2020

The Trustees had before them, and **approved** as a correct record, the minute of the meeting of 9 November 2020.

### 2. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – REPAIR WORKS TO FLOOD DAMAGE AT MODLEY BURN

There had been circulated a report by the Landscape Services Officer, dated 17 March 2021, which outlined a request for funding.

The Landscape Services Officer introduced the report and explained to Trustees that although the works required were outside the McDonald Park boundary, they would have a positive impact within the park.

The Trustees had previously requested that the Service survey the banks of the Modley Burn for damage. This was carried out and reportable damage had been found beside Gordon Park and beside the pavilion by Ellon Primary School. If not repaired, these areas of damage would directly affect the McDonald Park area and cause flooding.

It was clarified that at section 4.4 of the report, this should read “SEPA” rather than “Scottish Water”.

Trustees discussed the proposals and the funds available within the revenue and capital budgets.

Following debate, the Trustees **agreed** to **allocate £3,700** to Landscape Services, to carry out the repairs as detailed within the report, in order to maintain the upkeep of the park. This utilised all available revenue funds, with a small amount of capital funds being spent to make up the full allocation.

The Trustees also **requested** that officers bring back a further report to a Special Meeting of the Trustees, to consider the remaining funds within the

budget and the options for such. It was noted that interested parties, such as the Friends of McDonald Park and the McDonald Golf Club, be consulted in the preparation of the report.

### **3. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

Lynn Gilbert of the Friends of McDonald Park had given apologies for the meeting but had submitted questions.

#### Funding for Snowdrops

Lynn asked whether funding could be made available for snowdrops to be planted.

The Landscape Services Officer advised that the bulbs had been ordered and delivered.

#### Blue Plastic Pipes

Lynn asked whether it would be acceptable for the Friends of McDonald Park to remove the blue plastic pipes in the ground beside the trees which were planted in 2019/2020, when it was safe to do so under current restrictions. The group appreciated that the Council may not have manpower for these works and they felt that they could carry out the task without taking any machinery into the woods.

The Landscape Services Officer confirmed that this would be acceptable.

#### Gaps in Hedging

Gary Thomson of Ellon Civic Pride asked whether it would be possible for some of the gaps in the hedging to be filled.

The Landscape Services Officer advised that it was often difficult to fill in the gaps, however he agreed that it would be possible to try and he could arrange for beech and hawthorn whips to be supplied in Autumn 2021/22. Gary advised that Ellon Civic Pride and the Friends of McDonald Park could possibly help with the planting of these.

### **4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that a Special Meeting of the Trustees should be called, prior to the next meeting due in November 2021, in order that they could discuss the remaining funds within the capital budget. The meeting would be arranged for a Monday evening.