

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

28 July 2004 at 7.00 p.m.

Members of the Committee present: Councillors J.E. Haas, Miss M.N. Heath, H.W.V. Meares, N. Thewlis and K.J.T Walmsley

Residents' Representative: Mrs M.E.J. Bairstow

Members of the Committee absent: Councillor Mrs C.Y. Jones

Residents' Representative: Mr A.E. Panter

122. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Councillor H.W.V. Meares be elected Chairman for the Municipal Year 2004/2005.

123. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that -

Mr A.E. Panter be elected Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2004/2005.

124. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 February 2004 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

125. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs C.Y. Jones and Mr A.E. Panter.

126. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Mrs M.E.J. Bairstow declared a personal interest under the Runnymede Code of Conduct for Members in respect of the item concerning the Barley Mow Road/Northcroft Road footway extension owing to the proximity of her home to the proposed works. As Mrs Bairstow did not consider the interest to be prejudicial she remained in attendance and participated in the debate thereon.

127. ENGLEFIELD GREEN CRICKET PAVILION

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, December 2002, page 855, para 475 and February 2004, page 1325, para 725)

At its meeting in December 2002, the Committee had agreed to the termination of the lease for the Pavilion, preferably by surrender, in order to allow a new lease to be granted directly to the Englefield Green Cricket Club. The existing Pavilion Trustees were no longer active and in breach of a number of repairing obligations in the lease. It was hoped that the cricket club, which had effectively been the sole user of the facility in recent years, would prove to be more proactive in its management of the Pavilion.

Members now noted that two of the three remaining Pavilion Trustees were agreeable to the surrender of the lease. The third, a Mr Humphries, had, however, indicated that he opposed the proposed arrangements, raising concerns as to the financial viability of the cricket club and the effectiveness of its management control. The Committee agreed that if Mr Humphries did not provide written consent to a surrender it would be necessary to seek forfeiture on the grounds of

failing to satisfactorily uphold the repair covenants or on the basis that there were no longer the minimum of four Trustees as required by the lease.

RESOLVED that -

in the event that Mr Humphries does not provide written consent to a termination of the lease, the Director of Administration and Leisure be instructed to seek termination either by forfeiture, or on the grounds that there are no longer an adequate number of Trustees as required under the terms of the lease.

128. ENGLEFIELD GREEN - MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, February 2004, page 1085, para 641)

The Committee received a report outlining matters of current interest concerning the management and maintenance of the Green.

Following concerns raised at the previous meeting, it was now noted that the Council's grounds maintenance contractor had made a number of attempts to slit the surface of the Green in order to break through a layer of compacted soil which was adversely affecting the condition of the grass. The ground had, however, proved to be too hard and the contractors would be unable to undertake the work until ground conditions were suitable, probably following a sustained period of rain. Two small footbridges, approved at the previous meeting in order to traverse reprofiled ditches created to deter traveller and vehicular access, were due to be installed in the coming weeks.

Members were also informed that Surrey County Council intended to correct the line of Public Footpath 19, which ran through the woodland close to Coopers Hill Lane. The footpath had deviated from its definitive line over the years and it was proposed that this be corrected by the creation of an access onto Coopers Hill Lane. Meanwhile, it was suggested that a horse route be established through the woods, parallel with the road, to replace a horse margin (a grass verge where the riding of horses was permitted) which had been lost through the construction of the new tarmac footway along Bishopsgate Road. Officers were asked to work up the detail of an appropriate scheme to be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED that -

detailed proposals for the creation of a horse route through the woodland area of the Green, parallel with Bishopsgate Road, be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

129. URGENT ACTION - STANDING ORDER 42

Members noted that the following action had been taken after consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, under Standing Order 42.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Action Taken</u>	<u>Central Index No.</u>
Director of Administration and Leisure	Authorisation for the use of the Green for a childrens charity walk on 30 June 2004 and the Village School Proms on 10 July 2004.	N/A

130. BARLEY MOW ROAD/NORTHCROFT ROAD FOOTWAY EXTENSION

The Chairman agreed to the consideration of this item as a matter of urgency in order to avoid delaying the preparation of the proposed scheme beyond the next meeting of the Committee, in December.

The Committee gave preliminary consideration to a proposal by Surrey County Council to link the footway between Barley Mow Road and the Coach House in the interests of road safety. Members noted that the County Council intended to construct a 1.8m wide footway on the southern section of

Northcroft Road, widening the carriageway slightly onto the traffic island which formed part of the Crown land. Dropped kerbs would be provided at all the existing vehicle accesses. It was unclear at this stage whether the County Council intended to purchase the land or dedicate it as highway.

The proposed works appeared likely to have only a limited effect on the Green itself other than the loss of a small strip of grass verge on the traffic island. Members therefore supported the principle of the scheme on road safety grounds. Concern was, however, expressed that the new footway would make the corner outside the Coach House even narrower for vehicular traffic than was already the case. It was suggested that there might be a need to reset the boundary wall of Crown House further back. Consideration would need to be given to the detailed design of the scheme before approval for the works was granted. The consent of the Crown Estate would also be required and, dependent upon the detail of the proposal, the County Council might need to obtain planning approval.

RESOLVED that -

the provision of land for widening of the carriageway onto the Green verge to facilitate the linkage of the footway between Barley Mow Road and the Coach House be approved in principle, subject to consideration of a further report setting out the final scheme detail and the grant of all necessary consents.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.)