

Runnymede Borough Council

ENGLEFIELD GREEN COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 26 November 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

at the Jurgen Centre, Harvest Road, Englefield Green



Members of the Committee

Councillors H.W.V. Meares (Vice-Chairman), J.E. Haas, Miss M.N. Heath, Mrs. C.Y. Jones, N. Thewlis and K.J.T. Walmsley.

Residents' Representatives: Mrs. M.E.J. Bairstow and A.E. Panter

A G E N D A

Notes:

- i) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information (as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972) must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.
- ii) The relevant 'background papers' are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to **Mr. G. Marson, Committee Section, Administration and Leisure Department, Civic Offices, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel. 01932 425625). (Email: gary.marson@runnymede.gov.uk).**
- iii) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please telephone Mr. B.A. Fleckney on 01932 425620.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

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PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

- a) Exempt Information
(No reports to be considered under this heading)
- b) Confidential Information
(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. COUNCILLOR A.G. COLLINS

The meeting is to be asked to observe a minutes silence as a mark of respect for Councillor A.G. Collins who passed away on 18 September at the age of 84. First elected to the Runnymede Borough Council at its inception in 1974, Councillor Collins was Mayor in 1978/9 and had at various times been Chairman of both the Planning and Housing and Community Services Committees. He was Chairman of Englefield Green Committee from 1998 to the time of his death.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2003/2004.

(TO RESOLVE)

3. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Subject to the outcome of the preceding item, to elect a Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2003/2004.

(TO RESOLVE)

4. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 2003 (attached at Appendix 'A').

5. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

If Members have an interest in an item please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Legal Representative or Committee Administrator at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available from the Committee Administrator at meetings.

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when attending the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must leave the room if the interest is personal and prejudicial.

7. FOOTBALL GOALPOSTS (DAL)

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, October 2002, page 594, para 324)

1. At its meeting in February 2002 the Committee resolved that an informal 'kickabout' area be established on the Green for a trial period. When this was reviewed in October 2002 the Committee agreed that the 'kickabout' area should be removed and replaced with two separate and smaller goals, one at the southern end of the Green, which would be removed in the autumn, and one at the northern end which would remain in place for 12 months. It was further resolved that these trial arrangements should be reviewed at this meeting.
2. Since this Committee's last meeting the Council has received three letters objecting to the football goalposts located on the Green. Copies of two of these letters have been previously circulated to Members and a copy of the third is attached at Appendix 'B'. Officers report seeing the goals being used by young people on a number of occasions during their site inspections. The grass below each goal is worn and this would indicate that both are being used.
3. The Honorary Wardens have on occasion reported the Green being used by larger groups of older people for football and volleyball at weekends. Although there is no reason to deter the use of the Green by groups for informal recreational activities, organised official team games are not permitted without the Council's consent, which has not been sought in these cases. Following consultation with Officers, Honorary Wardens have made the situation clear to the relevant teams and these unauthorised activities have ceased.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

review the provision of the football goalposts on the Green and instruct Officers as to how it wishes to proceed.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None stated.

8. CAR PARKING (DAL)

(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, June 2003, page 239 para 146)

1. At its last meeting the Committee gave consideration to the issue of parking on the roads around the Green, particularly at the southern end. Officers were asked to seek the views of Surrey County Council on the introduction of waiting restrictions on the Green side of the road, opposite the Barley Mow pub, and to ask them to investigate a traffic management solution to the parking difficulties in this area, specifically around the triangle of grass.
2. The response of the County Council's Local Transportation Service indicated that they are currently undertaking a review of all waiting restrictions in the Borough in preparation for the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement and that whilst this review is underway, no new waiting restrictions would be introduced, unless there were proven urgent safety reasons for doing so.
3. As far as the actual road layout is concerned, County Officers have declined to consider this matter any further at this time. They have however considered a solution suggested by a local resident, which they have rejected for the reasons set out in the letter attached, with the rest of the correspondence, at Appendix 'C'. County Council Officers are, however, currently looking at whether it would be possible to introduce a footway at the end of Northcroft Road, where it joins Barley Mow Road.
4. A further suggestion has been put forward by a resident for this Committee to consider. This being that, as a step toward deterring parking on the Green, the existing line of wooden anti-parking posts be mirrored along the back of the Green up to a point opposite the cricket pavilion. The proposed location for these is indicated on the plan at Appendix 'D'.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO –

comment on the proposal in paragraph 4 and instruct Officers as to how it would wish to proceed.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Letter from Surrey County Council dated 25 September 2003.

9. SHRUB PLANTING (DAL)

Officers have been asked by Mr Power, a new Honorary Warden, to consider ways to improve the appearance of the small grass verge at the southern end of the Green, at the junction of Barley Mow Lane and St Jude's Road, as indicated on the plan at Appendix 'D'. Compared to the rest of the Green, this is a relatively insignificant area, but litter does seem to collect here and it is sometimes missed by the grass cutting contractors. The area is also shaded by a couple of trees, which prevent lush grass growth. Mr Power's preferred solution would be to plant the area with suitable shrubs. Officers consider it possible to plant low growing, shade tolerant shrubs which would give the area a more interesting appearance, but this would not stop the build up of litter and, in the autumn, leaves. It would also entail additional maintenance in the form of weeding, maintaining grass edges, pruning etc. Officers are therefore seeking the views of the Committee as to whether they consider the planting of this area to be a good idea and whether Members would wish Officers to spend time preparing a costed scheme for their consideration.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO:

comment on this proposal and instruct Officers as to how it would wish to proceed.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

None.

10. MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF THE GREEN (DAL)
(Ref: Minutes of Englefield Green Committee, June 2003, page 238, para 144)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. **The purpose of this report is to update Members with regard to matters of current interest concerning the management and maintenance of the Green.**

2. Footway – Coopers Hill Lane

2.1 At its last meeting the Committee welcomed proposals from the County Council for a new footway along the north side of Coopers Hill Lane. However, Members expressed reservations about the use of tarmacadam as opposed to a more natural surface such as hoggin. These concerns have been raised with County Officers whose response is that an unbound surface would not be suitable for those with disabilities and for this reason they would only consider using tarmacadam. In order to achieve a more sympathetic appearance they will set the footway back from the edge of the road, so that a grass margin can be retained between the two. Furthermore they will not be introducing a kerb along the edge of the road and the existing soft grass edge will remain.

2.2. The Crown Estate has now given its consent to this proposal. Contractors have been issued with an instruction for the works, but have been asked not to commence work until the Committee has been informed of the details.

3. Woodland Paths

3.1 In October 2002 Members and Officers walked the woodlands and discussed the appropriate level of maintenance for the area. It was agreed that the overgrown horse route would be re-established by removing trees and other vegetation. It was also agreed that the maintenance of the remainder of the woodland would be limited to keeping paths open. In addition, roadside verges in Coopers Hill Lane would be cut back to enable pedestrians to step out of the road if necessary. This work has all been completed during the last year and the paths, verges and horse route will continue to be kept clear of the encroaching vegetation. There will also be regular safety and maintenance inspections of the woodland. A plan showing the various routes through the woodland, with photographs, will be displayed at the meeting.

4. Englefield Green Village Residents Association

4.1 At its last meeting the Committee asked Officers to pass on to the Englefield Green Village Residents Association its concerns about the amount of litter that was left on the Green after the annual fair. This was communicated in August and the Association responded expressing surprise because they thought they had picked up all the litter after the event. However they have agreed to give the matter more attention when planning for next years event.

Background Papers

None stated.

11. HONORARY WARDEN'S REPORT

Mr P. Winkworth, Honorary Warden for Englefield Green, has reported a number of issues and observations related to the Green. Some have been dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda, or at previous meetings, but those that have not are set out below.

i) Memorial Bench

Earlier this year a memorial bench was installed on the Green, opposite the Cricket Pavilion, which had not received the prior approval of this Committee. Mr Winkworth sought clarification as to whether such approval was required.

Officers' Comments:

The installation of this bench was approved by the Crown Estate in accordance with the terms of the Council's lease. Under the Council's Scheme of Delegation Officers are authorised to carry out minor works and improvements without Committee approval. However, Officers would nevertheless consult Members and report to Committee if the proposal was considered to be controversial or of significant public interest. This was not considered necessary in this case.

ii) Cricket Pavilion Clock

For some years the clock on the pavilion has not worked and indeed has been without its hands for some time.

iii) Cricket Sight Screen

This screen had been left on site, in a prominent position outside the pavilion for several weeks after the end of the cricket season.

Officers' Comments:

After a number of reminders from the Council the club eventually removed the screen in early November.

iv) Dog Waste

Although bins are provided for this waste, there are a few people who still do not clear up after their dogs. Would it help if a small container with a supply of plastic bags, for this purpose, be attached to the bins?

Officer's Comments:

Officers do not recommend the adoption of this suggestion. Experience suggests that few dog owners would use the facility and the plastic bags would litter the Green.

v) Cricket Pitch Boundary Marking

It has been noticed that the white lining used by the Cricket Club to mark the boundary had adversely affected the growth of the grass.

Officers' Comments:

This has been taken up with the club and Officers are waiting to hear which material was being used, to ensure that it is of an approved formulation.

vi) Litter Bins

Litter bins at the top end of the Green, close to the woodland, are in need of attention.

Officers' Comments:

These are ongoing maintenance issues, such as steel liners that have been removed, and are being dealt with.

vii) Woodland Section of the Green

Since the public footpath and horse margins have been cleared in this area it is gratifying to observe that these paths are quite obviously being used.

Appointment of Additional Warden

Mr A Power, a local resident with a keen interest in the Green, has been appointed as a second Honorary Warden. Officers are of the view that two wardens are sufficient for the purposes of monitoring the Green and associated activities.

Officers would like to thank Mr Winkworth and Mr Power for their valuable assistance in managing the Green since becoming Honorary Wardens.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

Letter from Mr P Winkworth dated 9 November 2003.

12. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If the Committee is minded to consider any of the foregoing reports in private session, it is the

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that -

where appropriate the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of reports under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the reports in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in the appropriate paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(TO RESOLVE)

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

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(No reports to be considered under this heading)

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)