



Seaford Town Council

To the Members of the Golf & The View Committee

A meeting of the **Golf & The View Committee** will be held at **The View, Southdown Road, Seaford, BN25 4JS** on **Tuesday 4th September 2018** at **7.00pm** which you are summoned to attend.

James Corrigan
Town Clerk
24th August 2018

Agenda

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Disclosure of Interests

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any discloseable pecuniary interests and interests other than pecuniary interests, as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

3. Public Participation

To deal with any questions, or brief representations, from members of the public in accordance with Standing Order 3 and Seaford Town Council Policy.

4. Head Greenkeeper's Report

To consider report 86/18 presenting an update on golf course maintenance (pages 2 to 4).

5. Golf Professional's Report

To consider exempt report 94/18 providing an update on golf course related matters (exempt pages 5 to 7).

6. General Manager's Report

To consider exempt report 92/18 providing an update on the performance of The View at Seaford Head (exempt pages 8 to 10).

Please note that as the reports at items 5 & 6 are commercially sensitive, they have not been published as a public document. It is intended to hold the discussion in public however. If details of the commercially sensitive areas are to be discussed the Committee can resolve to hold that part of the meeting under an exclusion of the press & public.

For further information about items appearing on this Agenda please contact:

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Circulation: Committee members (as below) and all registered email recipients of agendas.

Committee: Councillor S Adeniji (Chair), M Brown (Vice-Chair), D Burchett, L Freeman, N Freeman, R Hayder, O Honeyman, A Latham, P Lower and B Webb.

For information: All other Councillors not on Committee.



Agenda Item No: 4
Committee: Golf
Date: 4th September 2018
Title: Head Greenkeeper Report
By: Simon Lambert, Head Greenkeeper
Purpose of Report: To inform of Golf Course maintenance.

Recommendations

You are recommended:

1. To note contents of this report.
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1. Information

As we moved through summer we began to warm up with very little rain. We went 6 weeks without recording any rainfall before a little, which only dampened the surface. The course has held up well through these testing conditions, as have the team while working in some of the hottest prolonged weather we have experienced. The golf course continued to be busy and we had to protect the surfaces from the level of play by reducing the frequency and raising the height of cuts to ensure the plants were protected from wear. Stress relieving products containing seaweed extracts and micro nutrients are added into the usual feed programs to help maintain a healthy sward.

The course started to dry up and burn off offering some classic links-style golf. The greens and tees have irrigation, and this has been relied on to maintain soil moisture and a healthy plant. We have worked hard with the hoses to water specific areas to help save water. This has been a time-consuming job, taking one person at least three days a week.

The little and often approach to the maintenance we have chosen to adopt helps to prevent any major effects to the quality of the greens. We have applied two low levels of sand topdressings to help maintain a true surface while keeping it firm and reduce compaction. Slow release feeds are applied to prevent any flush of growth which would require more water to sustain. Wetting agents mixed with an organic soil conditioner including beneficial bacteria was used in three to four-week cycles to help keep the water penetrating the soil surface and becoming hydrophobic. This also helps us to reduce the water inputs as what water we do apply is able to penetrate to the roots with little surface run off or loss.

The new mown shapes on Southdown Corner have produced a great effect, many wild flowers have already shown. We hope this develops further over the coming years. We have plans to include some additional planting of elm trees in the unmown areas to highlight the shapes and offer additional habitat for other wildlife. This year we have marked positions for 20 elms that help in the program the tree wardens have to plant 100 elms to mark 100 years of the armistice of 11th November 1918. We are currently looking into having the unmown areas cut and bailed to hopefully aid in the establishment of more wild flowers.

The clubhouse planted area developed well over the beginning of spring. The area was affected by the drought and many of the turfed areas dried out and burnt off. These are coming back nicely now with the use of delicate feeds and wetting agents to help water penetrate. We have begun to reinstate the areas left effected by the roof works and scaffolding now it has been removed. A few replacement plants may be required, this will be done once we can rely on the temperatures being cooler and perhaps a little rain to help them on their way.

Irrigation

The operation and the working capacity of the system has been tested this season with the prolonged hot and dry weather. All has been working very well with little problems. A large amount of hand watering has needed to be done to keep the greens and tees in good stress-free condition. This is largely due to the restrictions of the system and the shapes and sizes of the greens. To prevent waste and over watering we hose-apply water to missed areas or those that receive lower volumes of water through the sprinklers. This may be due to wind or the shape of the green, as well as brows or banks. We have applied an additional wetting agent that helps water to penetrate hydrophobic soils and also retains and evens out the water content in the soil.

The clubhouse roof irrigation provided a few problems with water supply. This was not able to be linked to the existing irrigation water supply due to its design. After some investigation we found a supply that fed the old clubhouse; this has been plumbed in to the control box by the contractor to operate sprinklers. After suitable rooting has taken place the sprinklers will be removed and the under-soil system will be connected. This will allow watering to the roots without waste due to wind and the elevated position. Once they have completed and handed over we will need to get a contractor in to make good the connections to this old supply and replace the meter and valve to enable us to shut off the water. I would recommend this is done when the summer is over and we are not reliant on the irrigation to keep the roof alive.

The irrigation tank continues to show signs of age. Moving forward the replacement of this should be considered. This maybe undertaken during the installation of a borehole but should this not be a viable option, the tank will still need to be replaced in the coming years.

With the level of mains water used this year I feel that it shows that a greater saving maybe able to be made with the use of a borehole. This will require a larger sized tank to store enough water but should we have more summers like this then it would prove to become more viable in the savings made from mains water use.

Staff

All the greenkeepers have had their yearly appraisals. These were all very positive and the team continues to perform well individually and as a group. Training requirements and requests to further knowledge and abilities were discussed and options will be looked at for the coming year.

Adam's level three portfolio has been signed off, he is awaiting his certificate. He attended a presentation event at Plumpton College where he and a small number of selected students were recognised for their hard work through the last two years. He even got to meet and shake hands as he was congratulated by a BBC 1 Country File presenter. This made his day as he is an avid watcher of the program.

Ben's first aid qualification and especially the addition of defibrillator training and one being on site has proven to be useful on two occasions so far. Although not needed as an ambulance crew arrived quickly, the option to possibly treat a person using a defibrillator prior to professional help arriving could save a life.

Nathan continues to improve as a greenkeeper and now qualified is working hard to gain more on the job experience in as many tasks as possible.

Nathan and Ben continue to work through their Black Book greenkeeping qualification in their own time. They have been set dates in their appraisals to complete certain sections.

Machinery

The Machinery has been working well and many pieces have had more of a rest than usual due to the hot and dry conditions not allowing for grass to grow at the usual rate. These machines have been cleaned and greased while not in use and any minor running repairs undertaken as we go, these usually wait until the season finishes. At the time of writing this report the tees mower is out of action and requires a costly repair; the hydro Stat had worn out along with a shaft that drives it. The repair with new parts could cost more than the machine is worth but it is vital to keep the tees mown and in play. We are currently looking at options including second hand parts to get us through the season. This machine is one of the pieces due to be replaced in the next phase in April 2019, so repair costs are going to be kept to a minimum. I am arranging the demos of new bits of machinery now to hopefully cover the downtime while we find the best way to keep it running.

The first phase of replacement that was undertaken has allowed us to work more efficiently already and the operations of the more modern machinery has improved the quality of the surfaces such as the fairways. The top dressing to the greens also causes less disruption as the new equipment makes a much more even spread.

Moving through the end of the summer we will be trying the available demo machinery to determine the best options equipment for the job. This phase is for tees mowers and rough mowers along with some tractor mounted aeration equipment. After this we will tender for quotes to get the most competitive prices for this year. This timing worked well last year as the suppliers held this year's prices for our April replacement date regardless of the January price increases they usually make.

The condition of our modern machinery is an investment that enables our relatively small greenkeeping team to work efficiently and effectively to produce a quality and competitive product. This must be kept up to date and in good condition to ensure it is safe, efficient and trustworthy.

2. Financial Appraisal

The costs of the borehole and integration to our current irrigation system along with the replacement of our storage tank are currently being explored. Potential funding is being investigated.

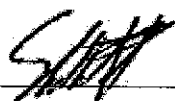
The cost of works to the water supply for the roof irrigation needs to be investigated.

Year two of the machinery replacement program is starting to be investigated. The best purchase costs will be sourced prior to tendering for leases aiming to have everything in place for April 2019.

3. Contact Officer

The Contact Officer for this report is Simon Lambert, Head Greenkeeper.

Head Greenkeeper



Town Clerk

