



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 19th March 2019 at 7.00pm which you are summoned to attend.

James Corrigan
Town Clerk
8th March 2019

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 177/18 presenting an update on golf course maintenance (pages 2 to 4).
5. **Golf Professional's Report**
To consider exempt report 181/18 providing an update on golf course related matters (exempt pages 5 to 10).
6. **General Manager's Report**
To consider exempt report 178/18 providing an update on the performance of The View at Seaford Head (exempt pages 11 to 14).

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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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 & The View Committee
Date: 19th March 2019
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

Winter has been very kind to us on the golf course. We have enjoyed some great dry weather with only small amounts of wet or frozen conditions to deal with. This has allowed the main grass tees to be used well into the new year before coming off for a rest and recovery. We hope to have these ready for play again before April, this will be dictated by the weather. As the weather has allowed, the hire buggies have been in use all but for about two weeks. This has proved popular and kept people and societies coming that require their use to play.

Prior to the tees coming off we built and installed 6 new winter tee frames and matts. These offer better surfaces to play off and now, being on a raised sleep frame, we are able make them level and keep them in better condition and looking good. It also means that in future years replacement of the top surfaces will be a much easier process. The new style surface has been met with good feedback.

The little and often approach to the maintenance we have chosen to adopt on the greens continues to show good results. We continue with little and often feeds and applications of bio nutrients as well as fungi and bacteria but reduce the nitrogen level as growth slows. The warm weather has encouraged the outbreak of disease on some of the greens and we have had to apply two fungicides instead of the usual 1 but this is still lower than most due to the cultural methods we use along with a protective approach when it comes to cutting heights and regimes. We have continued with the aeration program through winter with monthly solid tines and weekly sarral rolls to keep air flow moving and prevent compaction to the greens surface.

During the last few months we have performed a number of small but important tidying up jobs around the site. We have removed, cleaned, levelled and replaced all the 150yard marker posts on the course. We have marked the spots and now await the delivery of 14, 150yard marker concrete discs to put into the centre of the fairways to offer an extra method for golfers to choose their shots. All the tee position markers have been brought in, cleaned and re-painted. We have cleared a large area of trees and shrubs around the irrigation tank to accommodate a new larger tank.

At present we are concentrating on the course and turfed areas. We have been carrying out repairs and renovations to the bunker faces and edges getting them ready for the season ahead.

We are in the process of levelling and preparing for turf the new additional pro teaching/1st competition tee along with other areas that required turf. Once all the areas are prepared and the weather and temperatures allow, we will order in the correct amount of turf and spend time finishing off the areas ready for play.

One of the exciting new improvements is the extension of the 16th green. We have developed an additional 3rd to the front of the green opening up room for more pin positions and bring the bunkers more into play. This has developed well and is already looking like it has always been there. We will continue to improve the surface as we move into spring renovations and the moving of the existing and adding of a new sprinkler will take place once the system is set up for summer.

The un-mown shapes on Southdown corner were cut and bailed. This is to help remove nutrients and promote the thinning of the grasses and encourage wildflowers to grow. Following on from this we began the planting of 20 disease resistant elms organised and supplied by Tree Wardens to form part of the 104 planted in Seaford for armistice day to represent the people of Seaford that died during the war. These have added to the fields design and highlighted the mown and un-mown areas. They will also help to widen the diversity of wildlife and insects in the future.

The clubhouse planted areas were cut and shaped and new turf and bulbs replaced the weak Boxus hedge. Moving forward into next year a husband and wife members have offered to help maintain these areas. A discount on their membership for an agreed amount of maintenance has been offered. This should free up the greenkeeping staff to concentrate on the course.

Irrigation

In mid-November our irrigation contractor visited to drain down and set the system to winter mode to ensure all valves and decoders continue to operate while preventing freezing. He reported that the tank required draining to prevent collapse due to age related corrosion.

Following this report, we began the process of sourcing prices for different options of replacement with the addition of the borehole in mind. After meeting with different contractors, we set phase one of the plan into action that would enable us to replace the tank, service the existing pumps and put ourselves in a position to accept the borehole water in the future.

Phase one, the tank and pumps - due to the amount of water allowed to be extracted each day (20cubic Meters), we were required to choose a larger replacement tank. This should allow for the use of 100% borehole water to irrigate at our current levels once installed in phase two.

We have tendered and selected a contractor to remove existing and replace the tank, also to service and set up our pumps. These works are due to be finished by the 1st week of April. At this point our contractor will come in and commission the system on the course and update and commission the computer and controllers ready for the season.

The replacement tank will have an addition feed already in place to accept the borehole water pumped directly from the borehole when phase two is undertaken.

Phase Two, the borehole - we are currently investigating and applying for grants to allow this to happen as soon as possible.

The clubhouse roof irrigation provided what it needed to enable the roof to develop and grow well. The system was drained down for winter to protect from freezing in the following weeks and when consistent temperatures allow, we will fill and test the system. The supply of the water is still in need of addressing to repair small leaks and replace the meter, so we have a means of monitoring the water usage. This will be carried out once the system is back up and running.

Staff

All the greenkeepers have continued to work well and perform above the high standards we set for ourselves. All the team members have signed up to a free level 2 team leading and have completed part one within the time scale. We are all working towards part two which will complete the course.

After interviews for the Deputy Head position Tyler Rook from Dale Hill was appointed. He Started with us in November and comes to us with 10 years greenkeeping experience from a number of clubs. He has adapted well so far to the role and is looking forward to the growing season starting and seeing the course develop.

Ben Clark started his NVQ Level three in sports turf studying at home and on the job training with myself assessing and a college tutor coming out once per month to set goals and assess his progress.

Nathan Sutliff continues to develop into a confident and capable qualified greenkeeper. He is taking every advantage given form being offered the qualified position and is keen to increase his skill set quickly.

I have undertaken training in both Legionella testing and PAT testing which has enable more of the health and safety inspections to be carried out inhouse. This will enable us to stay current and offer better levels of testing that is required by law without incurring extra costs.

Machinery

As we moved into winter, we begun the servicing of the machinery and any maintenance required. We did not identify any major faults or works that are required, only general yearly maintenance and a few repairs that are fitting to the age of the machines. We will have the cutting units sent for re-grind and new bottom blades once the first few tidy up cuts have been made to ensure nothing has been left to damage the cutting blades following sharpening. We still have a few pieces of machinery to finish off before the start of the growing season, but we are on track to complete in good time.

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 next phase is now underway. This is the replacement of the Rough mower and Tees and Aprons Mower plus some tractor mounted aeration equipment. We have selected the most appropriate machinery for the jobs and secured quotes. The next Stage is to send out tenders for the leases. This should be complete within the next few weeks with the plan to place orders for April delivery.


2. Financial Appraisal

The costs of the borehole and integration to our current irrigation system 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 has been investigated and cost tendered for. The lease prices are soon to go out to tender.

3. Contact Officer

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

Head Greenkeeper



Town Clerk

