



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 29th May 2018** at **7.00pm** which you are summoned to attend.

James Corrigan
Town Clerk
22nd May 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 28/18 presenting an update on golf course maintenance (pages 2 to 4).

5. Golf Professional's Report

To consider exempt report 29/18 providing an update on golf course related matters (exempt pages 5 to 16).

6. General Manager's Report

To consider exempt report 30/18 providing an update on the performance of The View at Seaford Head (exempt pages 17 to 19).

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 (Vice-Chair), M Brown, 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: 29th May 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 into spring we saw the temperatures fluctuate quite a lot for a while with chilly night times and hot days. This is not ideal for grass growth. We require constant soil temperatures to establish the best swards, but this can't be rushed and a little and often approach with light feeds helps to find the appropriate time to begin works such as verti-cutting and dressing. This was a little later than previous years but if rushed, recovery would have been slow and we would have paid the price with poor surfaces for a longer than acceptable period.

We have worked on getting the shapes and definition of the holes and cuts right, changing a few to allow for quicker and fairer play while not losing the challenge of the holes. We have worked hard to bring all areas out of winter in good shape, this includes the greens, tees fairways and banks along with the bunkers and other features such as the well and the pill boxes. We hope to keep these additional features in good condition through the coming years and make more of a feature of history of the course and what it holds.

As we entered April we moved from the winter tee mats to the grass tees to the delight of the golfers. These had been scarified, seeded, fed and dressed. We now perform divoting and the rotation of tee markers three times per week to spread wear and repair divots. We use a three month granular feed on these areas; we will be putting down the second application in the next few weeks to help with growth and recovery.

We have completed the re-opening of the competition tee on the 18th hole. This is now ready. It offers a 505 yard shot from 437 feet up, down to the 18th green outside the clubhouse. Fraser was the first person to take a few shots off the tee and I am pleased to say he didn't let it down with some cracking long shots (nearly) down the middle of the fairway. The first use for it will be on Sunday 19th May for the Captain V President prize.

The program of little and often continues to work well on the greens. We create little disruption to play, which has been noted from golfers visiting from other courses. We continue with regular spiking and rolling through the spring and summer. We continue to apply iron and potassium to the greens to help with health and disease resistance but now increase nitrogen to

encourage the growth and recovery from increased play and works to maintain firmness and trueness. This allows us to keep a nice strong plant with good colour even when necessary invasive works are carried out such as verti cutting and top dressings.

After the winters tidying up of areas scrub and under trees. We have noted that all areas are shooting and re-growing well. The landing areas under trees were welcomed by golfers while the clearing of weeds and scrub has allowed for native wild flowers and plants to re-establish and gain a hold again. We will monitor these areas to ensure they do well and are protected from golf and people where required to ensure they thrive.

The bluebells once again made a good show this year. They are now dying back and the bracken is returning for the summer. We may leave some previously cut areas this following winter to allow the bluebells to recover and generate for the following year. Opening up and exposing them to too much sunlight for a number of years can begin to trigger a decline. Now we have a three year cycle of areas to manage we will rest one each year to prevent this happening.

The new mown shapes on Southdown corner have again developed well as the spring growth began. The definition is good and it is more visually pleasing. The elm trees planted in November have done well through the winter and are now in leaf. Moving forward we will continue to work with the tree wardens and offer more sites to plant more trees to enhance the area.

We have worked hard during March to complete the re-planting of the beds outside the clubhouse with rosemary, turf and a new box hedge. We also planted a few Ceanothus shrubs outside the doors. These will be grown up the sides and hopefully offer a nice scent as people enter and leave the View. Our next plan for the area is to deal with the banks to improve their appearance.

Irrigation

The system was pressurised and commissioned during April to prepare it for season. This ensures that no damage has occurred during the winter months such as splits and leaks. The Computer controller, Electrics and pumps are also all inspected and checked for correct operation. Once up and running we operate the greens and tees to ensure all sprinkler heads and nozzles are present and correct to ensure efficient watering and reduce water usage. This is done through out the year during periods of drought when the system is used more.

On start-up some age related issues were noted in the tank in terms of holes of rust in the outer support skin. Moving forward the replacement of this should be considered. This may be 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.

Staff

Adam has all but completed his NVQ level 3 apprenticeship. He has now completed functional skills which includes ICT, English and maths. His portfolio has been handed in for a final check before a meeting in a few weeks to sign and complete for Internal verification.

Myself and Adam took the opportunity of a half price off to gain a qualification in the safe use of wood chippers. Moving into the winter months this will enable us to clear and dispose of branches and cuttings from tree and hedge maintenance more quickly and effectively and also produce some chip that would offer other uses on the course and around the clubhouse.

Nathan and Ben continue to work through their Black Book greenkeeping qualification in their own time.

Machinery

The machinery has all been serviced, greased and sharpened to begin the new season. The servicing is done inhouse and the cutting units are sent away for sharpening. They have been working well with minimal repairs needed so far. The rough cutting machine developed an electrical fault and was out of action for two weeks. Outside mechanics were called in after we could not trace the problem. The main control box on the machine had broken and this was replaced. We hope that moving forward we can keep on top of repairs prior to the machine going down and not being able to be used.

The first phase of replacement has taken place and the four pieces of machinery have arrived and are working well. These are the fairway mower, a run around machine for carrying tools and soil, a utility vehicle that carries and operates the sprayer and a new top dresser.

Moving through the year I will begin to collect information and prices for the second phase of replacement to ensure we have everything in place for next year's budgets. We will begin to demo machinery from different manufactures and collect the best possible purchase prices as well as trade-in values.

The condition of our modern machinery is an investment that enables our relativity 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.

3. Contact Officer

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

Head Greenkeeper



Town Clerk

