



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 3rd March 2020** at **7.00pm** which you are summoned to attend.

James Corrigan
Town Clerk
18th February 2020

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 142/19 presenting an update on golf course maintenance (pages 2 to 4).

5. Golf Professional's Report

To consider exempt report 143/19 providing an update on golf course related matters (exempt pages 5 to 10).

6. General Manager's Report

To consider exempt report 144/19 providing an update on the performance of The View at Seaford Head (exempt pages 11 and 12).

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: Councillors Adil, Brown, Cash, Edson, Everden, M Hayder, R Hayder, Morland and Webb.

For information: All other Councillors not on Committee.



Agenda Item No: 4
Committee: Golf
Date: 3rd March 2020
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

The weather has played a great factor in the last few months with the wet weather continuing throughout most weeks of the winter. This has put a lot of stress on the grass. This was managed through raising the heights of cut and reducing frequency to offer the plant protection. We made use of white lines and hoops to protect wet and weak areas from traffic when needed. This helps us to keep the course open and allow the use of trolleys more often. We have had to prevent trolleys being used on a few occasions following heavy rain but as we drain well, they are soon back in use.

The relatively warm and wet conditions have led to an increase in grub activity on the tees and other certain areas. This has led to damage being caused by crows and other birds stripping the turf to find food. We have minimised this as much as possible through the use of deterrence and other products to some success. Once the activity reduces, we will begin to repair these areas through turving and seeding and top dressing. Other areas which show signs of stress from the dry summers will have work done on them such as aeration, over seeding and top dressing as required. With a good level of water in the ground we hope for a good spring with lush growth to help recover these areas quickly.

The program of little and often has proved to work well this year on the greens. We continue with regular spiking and rolling through the winter but reduce the cutting and disturbance to the plant. We continue to apply iron and potassium to the greens to help with health and disease resistance but reduce nitrogen so to the slow growth and reduced cutting. This allows us to keep a nice strong plant with good colour.

As the course has been too wet to work on without causing more damage, we turned our sights on areas around the clubhouse and improvements we can make. The installation of a boat planter with sleeper and stone surround has gone well, with now only painting and some additional planting required. We have installed a post and rope fence along the top of the bank down to the putting green to prevent dangerous exit or access to the course and also increase the visual appearance.

A new shoe and trolley cleaning station has been added as you enter or exit the course. This has been met with a lot of positivity as the wet and muddy conditions has produced much dirtier shoes and trolley wheels than usual. Moving forward the idea of an airline compressor system as many golf clubs have will be investigated and included in any plans for development.

The replacement of the last six winter tee mats with sleeper frames has been completed. All winter tee mats are now in play and offer a good alternative to the old-style mats we used to use. We will replace the artificial grass tops of the existing mats over a three-year cycle to ensure the surfaces stay suitable and safe to use.

Moving forward, following a number of cliff falls last year, serious consideration needs to be given to a contingency plan and future-proofing of maintaining an 18 hole golf course should the 17th green, only 20 metres away, and the 18th tee become dangerously close to the cliff edge. The Vanguard Way also currently runs between the cliff edge and the 17th green and 18th tee.

Irrigation

The system to the course is still in shut down for the winter. It is usually re-commissioned around the end of March/beginning of April to ensure it is ready when required for the new season.

The borehole has been successfully drilled and completed showing a good yield of clean water that can supply more than enough for the course requirements. The integration work including sinking the pump, pipe work, electrical work and communication equipment have all been installed and are working well. A detailed water test is going to be carried out to help us fine tune the requirements in terms of nutrient application as we begin to change from mains water to the borehole supply.

Following a report of the age and condition of the irrigation pumps and pump house and investigating the best move forward, we have begun the process of sourcing the best prices to move forward in replacing these pumps and the building in which they are contained. Should these pumps not be replaced prior to the new season we will running the risk of losing vital water to the greens and tees.

The clubhouse roof irrigation 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. We have looked into connecting to the borehole supply. This would required additional works and pressure reducing valves of which costs are being investigated.

Staff

All the greenkeepers have continued to work well and perform above the high standards we set for ourselves.

All staff will be completing on site digger operator training enabling them to safely use the small digger we will be adding to our fleet of machinery.

Ben Clark is continuing well with his Level 3 qualification and hopes to complete by August.

Nathan Sutliff has enrolled on Level 3 and has a start date of the 26th of February. Nathan will work with Ben and myself to complete this Level 3, with regular visits from a college tutor.

I have submitted all that is required for the first section of Level 4. I am currently awaiting confirmation as to if any additional evidence is required.

Machinery

The machinery has all been cleaned and checked over before storing for the minimal use it had over the winter period. We move and run the machines up to temperature on a regular basis to ensure its correct operation and to ensure it is ready for use when the weather allows.

We are beginning to service and sharpen the machinery and cutting units for the year to come. This is done in house saving us large labour costs. I perform all servicing while ensuring all staff are involved during the process to ensure they are familiar with the machines and their serving needs, as well as regular checks and potential problems.

After selecting to go like for like with the replacements, this year we have sourced the best prices for our requirements. Using these figures, we have gone out to tender to find the best lease prices and options to ensure we are ready for the purchases come April the first.

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 replacement pumps and pump house are being investigated.


The costs of works to the water supply for the roof irrigation are to be investigated.

Year three of the machinery replacement program has been investigated. The best purchase costs have been sourced. Lease costs have been used to update the budget. The information has been used to go out to tender so the best value lease company to be selected.

3. Contact Officer

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

Head Greenkeeper



Town Clerk

