



Seaford Town Council

Seaford Town Council Golf & The View Agenda – 24th May 2022

To the Members of the Golf & The View Committee

Councillors D Argent (Chair), J Cash (Vice-Chair), N Adil, M Brown, J Edson, B Payne, R Reed, MA Hayder, R Hayder, L Wallraven and B Webb.

A meeting of the **Golf & The View Committee** will be held at **The View at Seaford Head, Southdown Road, Seaford, BN25 4JS** on **Tuesday 24th May 2022** at 7.00pm, which you are summoned to attend.

Adam Chugg

Town Clerk

17th May 2022

- **The meeting will be video recorded and uploaded to the Town Council's YouTube channel after the meeting.**
- **See the end of the agenda for further details of public access and participation.**

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To consider apologies for absence.

2. Disclosure of Interests

To deal with any disclosure by Members of any disclosable 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 relevant legislation and Seaford Town Council Policy.

4. [Head Greenkeeper's Update Report](#)

To consider report 15/22 providing the Committee with an update on golf course maintenance (pages 4 to 7).

5. Golf Professional's Update Report

To consider report 16/22 providing an update on golf course related matters (pages 8 to 10).

6. The View Update Report

To consider report 183/21 updating the Committee on business operations at The View (pages 11 to 13).

7. Seaford Head Golf Club Update

A standard agenda item to enable the representatives of Seaford Head Golf Club at the meeting to give brief verbal updates on relevant business / activities of the club, for noting only

AGENDA NOTES

For further information about items on this Agenda please contact:

Adam Chugg, Town Clerk, 37 Church Street, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1HG

Email: admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: 01323 894 870

Circulation:

All Town Councillors, Young Mayor, Deputy Young Mayor and registered email recipients.

Public Access:

Members of the public looking to access this meeting will be able to do so by:

1. Attending the meeting in person.

OR

2. Watching the recording of the meeting on the [Town Council's YouTube channel](#) , which will be uploaded after the meeting has taken place.

Public Access to the Venue:

If you are attending the meeting in person, please arrive for 6.55pm where you will be shown into the meeting for a 7.00pm start.

Public Participation:

Members of the public looking to participate in the public participation section of the meeting must do so in person, by making a verbal statement during the public participation section of the meeting.

Below are some key points for public participation in the meeting:

1. Your statement should be regarding business on the agenda for that meeting.

2. You will only be able to speak at a certain point of the meeting; the Chair of the meeting will indicate when this is.
3. You do not have to state your name if you don't want to.
4. If you are unsure of when best to speak, either query this with an officer/councillor ahead of the meeting or raise your hand during the public participation item of the meeting and ask the Chair – they will always be happy to advise.
5. When the Chair has indicated that it is the part of the meeting that allows public participation, raise your hand and the Chair will invite you to speak in order.
6. Statements by members of the public are limited to four minutes and you don't automatically have the right to reply. The Chair may have to cut you short if you overrun on time or try to speak out of turn – this is just to ensure the meeting stays on track.
7. Where required, the Town Council will try to provide a response to your statement but if it is unable to do so at the meeting, may respond in writing following the meeting.
8. Members of the public should not speak at other points of the meeting.
9. A summarised version of your statement, but no personal details, will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Public Comments

Members of the public looking to submit comments on any item of business on the agenda can do so in writing ahead of the meeting and this will be circulated to all committee members. Comments can be submitted by email to admin@seafordtowncouncil.gov.uk or by post to the Town Council offices.

Health & Safety Measures:

While Covid restrictions are no longer mandated the Town Council wishes to stay vigilant and mindful of the health and safety of its meeting participants by upholding the requirement that you should not attend the meeting if you are displaying any Covid-19 symptoms (or have tested positive) as identified on the [NHS website](#) or symptoms of any similarly contagious illness.



Seaford Town Council

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| Report No: | 15/22 |
| Agenda Item No: | 4 |
| Committee: | Golf & The View |
| Date: | 24th May 2022 |
| Title: | Head Greenkeeper's Update Report |
| By: | Simon Lambert, Head Greenkeeper |
| Purpose of Report: | To provide the Committee with an update on golf course maintenance |

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| Recommendations |
| The Golf & The View Committee is recommended: |
| 1. To note the contents of this report. |

1. Information

1.1 Overview:

- 1.2** The spring, as through the winter, has been very dry. This has been great for golf and we've been able to produce a golf course the people seem to be enjoying. Dry conditions however have not been so good for growing grass and recovery of areas following a busy winter. That being said when small amounts of rain have come, we have been able to apply products and fertilisers that help us make the most of what moisture we have. We have been able to shape and mow the golf course from a winter set up to spring and summer condition.
- 1.3** We have completed our spring maintenance which included verticutting, tining, feeding, topdressing and rolling to help level and smooth the surface of the greens. We will continue now with little and often of these types of maintenance until the autumn.
- 1.4** After applying to be considered for the call for nature sites program on the South Downs National Park Authority's (SDNPA) website we have been

selected to progress to the next stage of the program. This will involve being allocated a SDNPA officer for a site meeting and discussions to firm up and plan and what would be needed to progress the project of create the pond/ wetland area we put forward for consideration.

1.5 Course Maintenance:

1.6 The wildflower areas of Southdown Corner, the clubhouse garden and roof and also the bluebells on course have all grown really well. With the bluebells nearly finished now and being taken over by their protective bracken for the summer, it is now time for the wildflowers to begin to show. These are all perennial so should develop year after year and show for a much longer period.

1.7 We have a good plan in place for routine maintenance and mowing to ensure we continue to provide a well-presented course. With the addition of a member of staff, we can add to the amount of small detail tasks and jobs we do that helps to make a massive difference to the appearance and the way the course plays.

1.8 The buggies are back out on the course after a break of use for the winter months due to safety concerns with the hills and slopes we have when the ground is wet and soft. They are as always proving popular for such an undulating site. This of course does present us with greater wear issues that hopefully will continue to improve as we continue to create better paths and routes through the winter months.

1.9 Irrigation:

1.10 The irrigation system has been started up and checked over. All has been working well with only a few minor repairs, which were expected. It has been in use throughout spring to help keep moisture levels in the greens good, as well as aid in the application of products where required.

1.11 We are looking into the most effective and efficient ways of irrigating the green roof which was a requirement for the planning application for the building.

1.12 Staff:

1.13 We did not have much success with the first round of adverts for the Assistant Greenkeeper position, with no-one relevantly skilled or qualified for the role. We have advertised again and now have three perspective

candidates. Following on from sending them more information and facts about the role, one has made contact and would like to visit - I am still awaiting contact from the other two as to if they are still interested in the position.

- 1.14** One of our Assistant Greenkeepers as always continues to be on top of his level 3 training. As we have moved into the final year, he will have extra meetings with his tutor to ensure he completes on target.
- 1.15** A team member will have successfully passed his PA1-6 spraying course to add to his CPD and also help with any requirements here on site.
- 1.16 Machinery:**
- 1.17** The machinery has so far all been working well, blades are sharp and the servicing done means we are seeing a reduction in fuel consumption from the end of last year when the services were due.
- 1.18** Moving into the fifth year of the machinery replacement program we have, we are currently awaiting the delivery of the new Gator, sprayer and roller. These are imminent.
- 1.19** As are soon to be completed the fifth year of replacements. Delivery times are very long at present so we are still awaiting delivery of the equipment for this year. Once complete we will re-visit the program and adjust and adapt as appropriate. Savings should be made in years 6-7 as leases finish. We will then own the machines that leases have finished. We will have them assessed to help decide on the appropriate time to replace them, ensuring they continue to be safe and efficient. As part of this we will consider electric options although currently this is still rather limited in the golf sector.
- 1.20** 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

- 2.1** The costs of moving and rebuilding the 17th green and 18th tee are being investigated.
- 2.2** The lease cost of replacement Gator, roller and sprayer has been agreed and we are awaiting delivery before the first payment.

2.3 The costs of works to the water supply for The View roof irrigation are ongoing.

3. Contact Officer

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

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| Head Greenkeeper |  |
| Town Clerk |  |



Seaford Town Council

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| Report No: | 16/22 |
| Agenda Item No: | 5 |
| Committee: | Golf & The View |
| Date: | 24th May 2022 |
| Title: | Golf Professional's Update Report |
| By: | Fraser Morley, Golf Professional |
| Purpose of Report: | To provide an update on golf course related matters |

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| Recommendations |
| The Golf & The View Committee is recommended: |
| 1.To note the contents of the report. |

1. Information

1.1 Course Conditions and Income:

1.2 April started off with some changeable weather but thankfully we saw golfers coming out more and more as the month went on and into May. Compared to last year, there is not the burst of business we had after lockdown and this year, outside financial pressures have lowered the number of visiting golfers. This said, we have seen a huge increase in the number of societies compared to last year.

1.3 We have found that spreading out the societies works better and gives a good balance to the golfing days, helping members, visitors and societies enjoy their visit to us more.

1.4 Membership:

1.5 Membership figures are steady and we are just over 93% of our budget already. We should surpass this as we head through the year, with still more new members and renewals still to come in.

1.6 Membership figures:

| Membership Type | Number |
|-----------------|--------|
| 7 Day | 102 |
| Senior | 118 |
| 5 Day | 6 |
| Intermediate 2 | 27 |
| Intermediate 1 | 5 |
| Youth | 1 |
| Junior | 12 |
| Totals | 271 |

1.7 Prices pro rata down on 1st July and this brings in some more people at that time.

1.8 Societies:

1.9 Societies have been very busy - this area seems to be making up where the others are a bit quieter at the moment. People seem to be a bit more comfortable meeting in groups and we should see most days having a society throughout the season.

1.10 We will be looking at the packages and terms for societies with the new clubhouse manager with a look to updating/improving the packages we already offer.

2. Other Items



2.1 We have been asked to relocate the defibrillator so it is accessible 24 hours a day. With this being an indoor unit, we will be looking to obtain another one to be placed on the outside of the building. The projects and facilities manager will be looking into how we can acquire a new one as soon as possible. With the number of walkers that pass our door each year, it would be of great benefit to have this in place.

2.2 Finding a new Teaching Professional has been a difficult task. We did find the perfect candidate but unfortunately his house move fell through at the last minute. We are still advertising and will hopefully find the suitably qualified person soon.

2.3 I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Mark Hocking to The View. From even the first week, we can see things are going to improve greatly for all involved.

3. Contact Officer

The Contact Officer for this report is Fraser Morley, Golf Professional.

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| Golf Professional |  |
| Town Clerk |  |



Seaford Town Council

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| Report No: | 17/22 |
| Agenda Item No: | 6 |
| Committee: | Golf & The View |
| Date: | 24th May 2022 |
| Title: | The View Update Report |
| By: | Adam Chugg, Town Clerk |
| Purpose of Report: | To provide the Committee with an update on business operations at The View |

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| Recommendations |
| The Golf & The View Committee is recommended: |
| 1. To note the contents of this report. |

1. Information

- 1.1** We extend a very warm welcome to our new manager, Mark Hocking. He started on the 9th of May and has definitely hit the ground running. He will give a brief verbal update on his first 2 weeks in post at the meeting.
- 1.2 Operational Update**
- (a)** It has been a very busy time with a number of staffing changes at The View in the last couple of months.
- (b)** Our Bar Supervisor and Head Chef have both stepped up and done a great job to maintain business and operational continuity until the new manager started on the 9th of May. They have adopted a fantastic, 'can do' approach, recruited, trained and supported staff and made sure everything can happen.
- (c)** Our HR & Governance Manager and myself have also undertaken additional work to support, and our Finance and Office teams have also done what they can to assist. It has been a true 'whole Council' effort

and approach and, crucially, business as usual has been maintained throughout this period.

- (d) We have received very positive feedback about two of the key recent events - the wedding on the 16th of April and the Royal Society of St George's dinner on the 23rd of April.

1.3 The View Working Group

- (a) Here is a reminder of the motion, passed by this Committee, that established the working group and which the group have adopted as its purpose:
 1. To establish The View Working Group to undertake the following:
 - i. To review the previous Business Plan and other reports written about The View since it opened.
 - ii. To draw on the expertise of staff, Councillors and other stakeholders to identify ways of increasing income.
 - iii. To consider leasing out the restaurant and catering operation to a specialist hospitality company/restauranteur.
 - iv. To produce a list of proposals for consideration to the Golf & The View Committee and then seek agreement for those actions by Full Council.
- (b) Work has begun and recommendations for Cllrs will come forward in due course from the Working Group.
- (c) It is 'Business as Usual' at The View during this time.
- (d) Managers from The View will be presenting their ideas to the working group very soon.

2. Financial Appraisal

2.1 The unaudited year-end figures for The View show a loss, including loan payments, of around £86,000. Once the audit is complete, we will share the final figures. Please note:

- (a) Overall, the whole Golf and The View division is showing an unaudited surplus for the year of around £46,000.
- (b) This performance is a significant improvement on previous years and better than budget. At the same time, work is underway to see how to further improve financial performance.

3. Contact Officer

The Contact Office for this report is Adam Chugg, Town Clerk.

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