

## WERNETH LOW COUNTRY PARK JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

25 November 2019

**Commenced:** 10.30 am

**Terminated:** 11.10 am

**Present:** Councillors Robinson (Chair), Bowden, Cooper and Kitchen  
Mr Gradwell (Vice Chair) and Bell

**In Attendance:** Nicola Marshall Greenspace Development Manager  
David Cannon Greenspace Development Officer

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor J Fitzpatrick  
Mr Ainger and Galvin and Mrs Evans

### 6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 7. MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

The minutes of the Werneth Low Country Park Joint Management Committee meeting held on 15 July 2019 were approved as a correct record.

### 8. MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2019/20

Consideration was given to nominations for membership of the Joint Management Committee for 2019/20. It was reported that, Mr Ainger, had resigned as a Hyde War Memorial Trust member of the Joint Management Committee.

#### RESOLVED

That the following members be appointed:

**Tameside MBC: Councillors Bowden, Cooper, J Fitzpatrick, Kitchen and Robinson.**

**Hyde War Memorial Trust: Messrs Bell, Galvin, Gradwell and Mrs Evans.**

### 9. WERNETH LOW JOINT MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT REVIEW

The Greenspace Development Manager submitted a report to the Joint Management Committee informing members of the progress made in relation to the review of the Joint Management Agreement which was due to expire in March 2020. It was reported that should no agreement be reached by the end of March 2020 then there was provision within the original agreement for it to continue on a rolling year by year basis from 1 April to 31 March, subject to the agreement of both parties.

The Joint Management Committee were informed that both parties remained committed to renewing the partnership. As reported in a previous meeting, a sub-group of the Werneth Low Joint Management Committee had been set up to review the agreement and would report to a future meeting of the Joint Management Committee. Following the formation of the sub-group there was a

requirement to amend the membership to reflect Mr J Bell being a member from the Hyde War Memorial Trust following his retirement as a Councillor.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the information provided be noted.**
- (ii) That Councillor Kitchen be appointed to the Sub-Group of the Joint Management Committee on behalf of Tameside MBC.**

#### **10. GREENSPACE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Greenspace Development Officer submitted a report to the Joint Management Committee informing members of the activities undertaken within the Country Park since the last meeting of the Joint Management Committee held on 15 July 2019.

The Joint Committee were informed that the summer grass cutting programme for 2019 had been completed. The programme included: the grass cutting of the Lower Higham Visitor Centre area, car parks, access points, picnic areas and strips along footpaths. The cost of this programme had been paid by Tameside MBC.

It was reported that due to the unprecedented inclement weather during September and October that footpath repair works from Lower Higham to the Hackingknife and from the Cenotaph across Hackingknife Meadow had been delayed. It was considered whether the contract with Fairways should be cancelled for the autumn and work recommenced in February. Both parties were keen to ensure that the money to pay for the works was not lost in the new financial year.

The Greenspace Development Officer outlined the projects and the costs over the previous months. It was explained that work on clearing vegetation from the car park barriers at the Lower Higham Visitor Centre had been completed at a cost of £556 as well as repairs to the wooden barriers and tree felling and pruning at a cost of £1,150. At Baron Fields, to the rear of Orchard Rise, additional drainage work at a cost of £4,151 had been carried out as the existing drainage pipes had not been of sufficient capacity to take the recent run-offs from higher ground. Volunteers had also planted tulip bulbs around the Lower Higham Visitor Centre at a cost of £82.

The Joint Committee was informed that the Werneth Low Country Park summer 2019 programme of public events had now closed. A total of 36 people had attended the events. The Tour of Britain cycle race came over the Low on Saturday 14 September with thousands of people coming to the area to cheer the riders along.

Members referred to the recent Remembrance Sunday event noting the cross-generational attendance.

Members referred to work undertaken by the Voluntary Service, specifically in relation to hedge-laying around the Country Park. The Joint Committee were informed that hedge-laying was expected to be completed on 31 March 2020. An additional volunteer had been trained to assist with over one kilometre of hedge-cutting.

The Greenspace Development Officer advised the Joint Management Committee of the threat of Ash Dieback disease to the woodland within Werneth Low. Members considered possible alternative types of trees which could replace Ash stock if required which could support and enhance existing wildlife diversity within the Country Park.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the information provided be noted.**

**CHAIR**