

Minutes of the Major Projects Sub-Committee Meeting held in the Greenkeeping Sheds on Monday 21st March 2016.

Present: P Sawers (Chairman), C Yule (Vice Chairman), G Murray, J Gilbert, A McColgan, T Healey, A MacKenzie, A McKeown, A McColgan

In Attendance: G Duncan (General Manager)

Meeting began at 1940 hours.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Golf Centre Development

P Sawers proposed the following motion be supported by the sub-committee and recommended to the Board of Trustees for approval.

The motion was in 4 parts.

- i) Approval for Option 4 (as defined on Pg.28 of the Business Justification Case) to be constructed.
- ii) Approval to begin project as soon as possible with a view to completing the project by December 2017.
- iii) Approval to approach Angus Council for Landlords consent and progress the planning amendments as appropriate.
- iv) Approval to instruct WJR Christies to seek out tenders for the project (subject to Landlords consent being obtained).

The proposal was seconded by C Yule.

J Gilbert proposed that the project be delayed until after the 2018 Open Championship. This was seconded by A MacKenzie.

A vote was taken on the J Gilbert proposal, which was defeated by 6 votes to 2 with 1 abstention. Those in favour, J Gilbert and A MacKenzie. Abstention, A McColgan. Those against, P Sawers, C Yule, G Murray, J McLeish, T Healey, A McKeown.

A vote was then taken on the P Sawers proposal. This was carried by 6 votes to 2 with 1 abstention. Those in favour, P Sawers, C Yule, G Murray, J McLeish, T Healey, A McKeown, those against, J Gilbert and A MacKenzie, abstention, A McColgan.

The sub-committee therefore recommended that the following motion be put forward to the full board for approval.

i) Approval of option 4 (as defined on Pg.28 of the Business Justification Case) to be constructed.

ii) Approval to begin the project as soon as possible with a view to completing the project by December 2017.

iii) Approval to approach Angus Council for Landlords consent and progress the planning amendments as appropriate.

iv) Approval to instruct WJR Christies to seek out tenders for the project (subject to Landlords consent being obtained).

A McColgan then raised the matter of a driving range and said he considered this to be a higher priority project than the Golf Centre extension. He said he estimated that the driving range may cost up to £2 million and he was concerned that by approving the Golf Centre extension this would mean we would be unable to progress the driving range. A McKeown said that having studied the cash flow projections on Pg.36 of the Business Justification Case, he did not think that funding would be an issue. He said that we were estimated to repay the borrowing in 3 years and that this provided plenty of scope for further projects. He felt that the problem was the availability of land, not finance. T Healey said the driving range was not an option for discussion at the moment but that it may be necessary to consider radical options if a driving range was to be constructed. A McColgan said he was firmly of the view that Carnoustie had to improve but he remained convinced that a driving range was top priority.

J Gilbert said that he had delivered a preferred option from the driving range sub group which was the 1st and 18th of the Buddon Links. He said there were a number of obstacles to overcome with regard to that area, but he did not regard lack of finance to be one of them. He said that a number of courses such as Kingsbarns were able to fit out a perfectly adequate driving range for a low cost.

A McKeown asked about the location of the TV compound and J Gilbert said that the R&A had not committed to that as yet. A McKeown said it was a priority to try and obtain for Carnoustie a similar deal to that of Portrush. J Gilbert explained that a driving range was not an issue for the R&A as they always used 1 and 18 of the Buddon Links as the Championship practice ground.

J Gilbert said that he felt he was short of Trustee support on the driving range sub group as W Thompson had not been replaced following his resignation of the board. He suggested that A McColgan be co-opted on as a member of the sub group. It was also agreed that T Healey would also join the driving range sub group.

A McColgan said that as far as the Golf Centre extension was concerned he would be keen that we obtain the highest BREEAM environmental standards. He asked if the fit out costs of the driving bays were available. G Duncan said he had estimates and he would attach them to this minute. P Sawers said that sponsorship of the bays may be an option from our strategic partner Taylormade or other large golf equipment companies. J Gilbert said that if constructed, the simulator bays may prove adequate for warm up facilities on their own. T Healey said that if the Golf Centre extension goes ahead it may be necessary to introduce some subsidy of the building from other income. He said this was required in order to provide the best level of facilities for everyone. P Sawers asked what was done at St Andrews and G Duncan said a portion of the visitor green fee was allocated to the Links Clubhouse. The view from St Andrews was the visitor green fee was not just for the round of golf but for the other facilities provided. A McKeown said he was confident in the predictions made by the professional experts and that the bar and restaurant would be successful. A McColgan repeated his view that in order to make Carnoustie Links better we had to deliver improvements.

J Gilbert asked if the reports from the management team could be available and G Duncan said that these would be attached to the minute when it was circulated.

The meeting closed at 2030 hours.