

Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861

Minutes of the Downs Committee held on 8th September 2014 at 4.00 pm at City Hall

Present:

- P The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor
Councillor Alastair Watson Chair
- P Councillor Peter Abraham)
P Councillor Martin Fodor)
P Councillor Glenise Morgan) City Councillors
P Councillor Mahmadur Khan)
P Councillor Bill Payne)
P Colin Smith)
- P Anthony Brown (Master)
- P Chris Booy)
P Chris Curling)
P Andrew Densham) Merchant Venturers
P Francis Greenacre)
P Chris Pople)
P Sir James Tidmarsh)

Also in attendance:

- Mike Allen - Finance
Becky Coffin – Nature Conservation
Andrew Gordon - Estates Management
Peter Watts - Events Team
Richard Ennion – Environmental Improvement Manager
- Norman Cornthwaite - Democratic Services

DWN
52.9/14 **Apologies for Absence and Introductions** (Agenda Item No. 1)

No apologies were received..

DWN
53.9/14 **Minutes – Downs Committee – 7th July 2014** (Agenda Item No. 2)

In relation to the Public Forum Statement on Anti Social Behaviour, it was agreed that future Downs Management Reports would include statistical information on this issue.

RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Downs Committee held on 7th July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

DWN
54.9/14 **Declarations of Interest** (Agenda Item No. 3)

The following declarations were received and noted:

Chris Curling – Chairman of Sustrans and a member of the British Mountaineering Council.

Councillor Watson - Member of the British Mountaineering Council.

Councillor Abraham - Member of the Licensing Committee.

DWN
55.9/14 **Public Forum** (Agenda Item No. 4)

The following items of public forum were received and are available for inspection in the minute book.

Agenda Item	Issue	Name	Comments
N/A	Climb Bristol and the Avon Gorge	Martin Croker, Climb Bristol	A report on the issue is to be considered at a future Meeting of the Committee

N/A	Keeping Sunday on the Downs Special too – Request to close Circular Road am 28 th September 2014	Vicki Cracknell – presented by Liz Cunningham	It was noted that this request has already been refused. This decision was taken following consultation, for reasons of not setting a precedent, the low numbers of people involved in the event and the inconvenience caused to other users by road closures. It was also noted that this issue, including road closures, could be taken into account during consideration of the Cycling Strategy.
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DWN

56.9/14 Downs Management Report (Agenda Item No. 5)

Andrew Gordon introduced the report and summarised it for everyone. It was noted that the charges for sports facilities had to be the same across the City. It was noted however that the charges for the football pitches were not covering the costs (a difference of £3,000) and it was considered that the charges should cover the costs.

It was agreed that a report on the fees and charges, and the costs, and how they relate to the Council's Policy should be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that banners are being erected on the Downs and that these should be removed.

It was noted that some informal BBQ's are quite large and concerns have been raised about this.

The issues of the hay baler and benches were discussed and

Andre Gordon outlined the position relating to these issues.

Details of the Downs' staffing details will be provided to Members of the Committee.

Resolved - (1) that the report be noted and recommendations agreed; and

(2) that a report on the fees and charges, and the costs, and how these relate to the Council Policy is be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

DWN

57.9/14

Delegated and Upcoming Events Proposed on the Downs
(Agenda Item No. 6)

Peter Watts introduced the report and summarised it for everyone. He explained that different rates for events are charged at different sites to try to encourage the use of under used sites.

In response to comments about the low level of fees charged for some uses, including filming, meaning that the asset (the Downs) was not being used efficiently or effectively, Peter Watts stated that he would raise the issue with the Film Office and report back.

Resolved - that the report be noted.

DWN

58.9/14

Finance Report (Agenda Item No. 7)

Mike Allen introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

The issue of car parking provision for the Zoo was debated. It was noted that there are implications for the Zoo and its viability if the parking was discontinued, and that the Zoo may be prepared to pay more for a longer term arrangement. The Zoo does not consider the Park and Ride Service to be a viable alternative to car parking provision. It was noted however that the view of the Development Control Committee is that the arrangement should be time restricted. If the car parking arrangement does come to an end, this would have a detrimental impact on the finances of the Downs Committee. (It was noted that the parking in front of the Zoo is subject to a different arrangement and that this will continue.)

The introduction of the RPZ may mean more organisations wanting to park on the Downs and this may be an opportunity to increase income.

Resolved - that the report be noted.

DWN

59.9/14 Information Items – Any Other Business (Agenda Item No. 8)

(i) Bridge Valley Project Updates

Noted.

(ii) Shaun in the City 2015

Members agreed that they would send in their comments on the new locations.

(iii) Retreat Café

It was noted that the Café intends to apply for an alcohol licence and details of the application were circulated. On the basis of the information provided Members did not have an objection should the application be granted.

DWN

60.9/14 Exclusion of the Press and Public (Agenda Item No. 9)

Resolved – that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended.

DWN

61.9/14 Rock Falls in the Avon Gorge (Agenda Item No. 10)
(Exempt paragraph 3 - Information relating to a person's financial or business affairs and paragraph 4 – Information relating to any consultation or negotiations)

(Meeting ended at 6.20 pm.)

Chair