

THE DOWNS COMMITTEE

Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861

Downs Committee Meeting
25th September 2017 at 2.00 pm
City Hall

Present:

BCC -

Lord Mayor Councillor Lesley Alexander

Councillor Donald Alexander

Councillor Clare Champion-Smith

Councillor Cleo Lake

Merchant Venturers -

Cullum McAlpine – Master (Chair)

Jonathon Baker

Anthony Brown

Francis Greenacre

Charles Griffiths

James McArthur

Tim Ross

Also in attendance -

Melissa Inman- Events

Ben Skuse – Downs Maintenance

Jemma Prince – Finance

Norman Cornthwaite – Democratic Services

Mandy Leivers – Avon Gorge and Downs Biodiversity Education Officer

Robert Westlake – Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG)

Change of BCC Membership

Resolved – that the changes to the BCC Membership be noted.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Peter Abraham Barry Clark and Kye Dudd, and James McArthur.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved – that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd July 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Declarations of Interest

None were received.

Public Forum

The following statement was received and noted by the Committee:

Kean Seagers – Lets Rock 2018.

Downs Management and Events Report

Events

Melissa Inman introduced this part of the report and summarised it for everyone.

She confirmed that the Music Concert on 2nd September 2017 had been considered a great success.

She confirmed that the options for the Circus Tender had been considered by the Events Sub Group and that it had recommended that the present arrangement be extended for a further year with a new contract to be arranged commencing in 2019 for a three year period. This was agreed.

She explained that members of the Event Subcommittee raised that it was felt that Charity Events can be disruptive as they involve parking and road closures, etc. The Events Sub Group had therefore recommended that a report be brought before the Committee recommending a maximum number and scheduling arrangements for next year. This was agreed.

It was noted that the proposed location for Lets Rock 2018 is the best location. It was also noted that there are only three sites for events on the Downs and one of these (Sea Walls) encroaches on the football pitches can therefore Ben Skuse advised an alternative location is preferred. The Lets Rock was therefore agreed subject to licensing and Site Permission.

The Team Love Music Event is likely to take place next year . A two day event is a possibility - It is likely to be two different types of events over the two days . Proposals for 2018 will be provided by Team Love in advance of the next Event Sub Group committee meeting.

Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project Education Programme

Mandy Leivers introduced this part of the report and summarised it for everyone.

Management and Resources

Ben Skuse introduced this part of the report and summarised it for everyone.

He asked that the Committee approve a sum of £5,500 to spend on Fertiliser for the football pitches. This was agreed.

He reported that the results from the digging of the Drainage Trial Pits had been inconclusive.

It was noted that the Management Plan would come before the Committee for approval.

Resolved – (1) that the report be noted; as well as

(2) that the present arrangement for the Circus Tender be extended for a further year with a new contract to be arranged commencing in 2019 for a three year period;

(3) that the Committee receives a report recommending a maximum number of Charity Events and scheduling arrangements for next year;

(4) that the Lets Rock 2018 Event be agreed; and

(5) that an amount of £5,500 be agreed for Fertiliser for the football pitches.

Finance Report

Jemma Prince introduced the report and summarised it for everyone. She confirmed that the heading “Proposed Budget” should be read as “Projected Outcome”.

Resolved – (1) that the report be noted; and

(2) that the figures relating to the Projected Outcome for 2017/18 be agreed.

Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge (FOD+AG)

Robert Westlake introduced the report and summarised it for everyone.

Resolved – that the report be noted.

Any Other Business

Events and Finance Sub Groups

It was suggested that these Groups be merged into one Group and this was agreed. It was also that the membership be the Lord Mayor plus three BCC Members and the Master plus three MV Members.

Resolved – that these Groups be merged into one Group and that the membership should be the Lord Mayor plus three BCC Members and the Master plus three MV Members.

Toilets on the Downs

Keeping the downs toilets open until alternative arrangements could be made, was discussed, however with only £12000 in the current Downs committee budget for toilets, this leaves circa £23000 shortfall. It was noted however that some of the Downs Committee is reluctant to take on responsibility for the toilets.

It was also that a Sub Group should be established to investigate alternative arrangements. The Membership was also agreed as Councillors Donald Alexander and Clare Campion-Smith, Jonathan Baker and Tim Ross.

Resolved – (1) that should BCC decide to close the Toilets on the Downs , that a request is made to keep them open until alternative arrangements can be made; and

(2) that a Sub Group should be established to investigate alternative arrangements; the Membership be agreed as Councillors Donald Alexander and Clare Campion-Smith, Jonathan Baker and Tim Ross.

Proposed Meeting with Local MPs

Following a debate it was agreed in principle that a group of Members of the Downs Committee should meet with the Local MPs on an informal basis.

Next Meeting

Monday 20th November 2017 at 2.00 pm at City Hall.

Meeting ended at 3.55 pm.

(Chair)