

Minutes of the Joint Management and Greens Committee Meeting

Friday 12th July 2019 at 10pm

Apologies. Sue Roworth, Bob Cruise, Charles Rayment, David Elliot, Graham Keeble, Martin Gargen.

Present. Scott Gibson (SG), Will Smith (WS), Nick Williams (NW)

Martin Biddle (MB), Geoff Jones (GJ), Kristian Godfery (KG)

Neil Bradley (NB).

After meeting outside the Clubhouse, the group travelled to the 10th fairway on the Church Course. NB opened the meeting by thanking those present for being able to attend at such short notice and gave a brief outline of the mounting concerns over inefficient water usage and the current water levels in the Clubs reservoir, then handed over to SG to give an in depth review of the current situation.

SG explained that following a recent complete audit of the club's irrigation system by Roger Davey (Irritec Ltd) which had been requested by the Management Committee, it was now obvious and very concerning that the clubs 21-year-old Fairway Irrigation Heads were outdated and highly inefficient.

SG continued, following recommendations from Roger Davey the club had trialled 4 of the new Generation of Sprinkler heads from Toro irrigation, on parts of the 10th Fairway.

SG and WS then gave the group a first-hand working demonstration of the Old sprinklers verses the New.

Firstly, the group witnessed the old sprinklers in action which lack any adjustment facility and can only perform a 360 Degree rotation,

the group immediately identified that the old heads were watering the deep rough with very little of the water hitting the fairway.

Next, WS demonstrated the new generation of Toro Heads. Members present observed the new heads spreading a very controllable and even stream of water that only targeted the fairways.

SG informed that the Toro heads with full adjustment capability had in the 2 trial months already made a very positive and clear difference to those areas of the 10th fairway, the entire group agreed this was very clear to see.

The Committee then had much discussion regarding the need to future proof our courses and reduce water wastage as much as possible.

After witnessing the old sprinklers in action, it was unanimously agreed that Irritecs audit has highlighted a very serious but solvable problem.

GJ asked the cost and timescale in order to bring the system up to a modern standard.

SG said he had spoken with recommended suppliers and had received some indicative costings. the indications are that we will need to replace 220 irrigation heads and the cost would be circa £ 33k inclusive of VAT.

SG suggested that his team of staff are comfortable and able to swap the sprinkler heads in house and therefore negates the need to employ a specialist contractor.

All present unanimously agreed that having seen the severely wasteful nature of the Old heads that SG should obtain some detailed specifications and firm prices in order to request funding from the Treasurer and Management committee. All agreed that this must be an immediate priority project.

MB asked SG about immediate fairway watering policy given the rapidly diminishing reserves of water in the reservoir. SG replied that until the new heads are installed and fine tuned that he would like to greatly reduce Fairway watering and only target desperate areas with hand watering. All agreed that this was the correct course of action and that SG had full support of members present in this matter.

During the working demonstration GJ recorded several videos which he would circulate to all members of the Management and Greens Committee.

NB thanked everybody for attending and contributing to such a positive meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.15 am.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6isWERiCAGxZ3oNg7>