Englefield Green Committee

Tuesday 23 June 2009 7.00pm

at the Jurgen Centre
Harvest Road
Englefield Green

Members of the Committee

Councillors D R Hamilton, Miss M N Heath, M T Kusneraitis, H W V Meares, P I Roberts and P Taylor.

Residents' Representatives: Mrs L Lawson and Mr A E Panter

AGENDA

Notes:

1) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972 must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.

2) The relevant 'background papers' are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to **Mrs C Holehouse, Administration and Leisure Department, Committee Section, Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel: Direct Line: 01932 425628). (Email: carol.holehouse @runnymede.gov.uk).**

3) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please ring Mr B A Fleckney on 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

Matters in respect of which reports have been made available for public inspection

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PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

a) Exempt Information

12. PLAY AREA EXTENSION 7

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

To elect a Chairman for the Municipal Year 2009/2010

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

To elect a Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2009/2010

3. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 25 February 2009 which are contained in the April 2009 Summons/Minute book.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

If Members have an interest in an item please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Legal Representative or Committee administrator at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available from the Committee Administrator at meetings.

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when attending the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must leave the room if the interest is personal and prejudicial.

6. ENGLEFIELD GREEN – LEASE AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION (DAL)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members, in summary, of various matters relating to the Committee and the Green.

2. Committee Terms of Reference

2.1 To make recommendations to the Council on annual and capital expenditure on Englefield Green.

2.2 To exercise the Council's powers and duties on all other matters relating to Englefield Green.

3. Controls

3.1 The Crown Lease

Englefield Green was leased from the Crown in 1955 for a period of 99 years, commencing 10 October 1954. The lease requires the management and control of the Green to be vested in the Englefield Green Committee, which is essentially made up of Englefield Green Members and two other persons appointed by the Council from among people living around the Green. The list of people living around the Green is likely to be reviewed in consultation with the Crown Estate every three years. The lease requires the Green to be kept in good and neat order and condition for recreation purposes and the Crown's consent is required for the erection of any building, tent or other erection. In addition the Crown's consent is required if timber, trees, shrubs, gorse or bracken are to be cut down or removed. Copies of the lease are available if required.

3.2 The Scheme

In 1955 a Scheme, under the provisions of the Commons Act 1899, was approved by the Crown and the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Scheme sets out Runnymede's powers and duties, including the power to make byelaws for the prevention of nuisance and preservation of order on the Green. Under the Scheme, Runnymede is required to keep the Green free from encroachments and has the power to set apart areas of the Green for games such as cricket, football, tennis or bowls and such areas may be temporarily enclosed. Provision is also made for public rights of access. Byelaws were duly

introduced in 1958 and prohibit, without lawful authority, various activities such as cutting turf, grazing cattle or placing swings, roundabouts, shows or other exhibitions on the Green. They also make provision, where areas have been set aside for particular games, for the use of other parts of the Green. Copies of the Scheme and Byelaws are available on request.

3.3 Village Green Status

Englefield Green was registered as a Village Green in 1967 and the registration, being undisputed, became final in 1970. There are no rights registered in respect of the Green. The effect of registration is to bring the regulation of the Green, in certain matters, within the ambit of the Commons Act 2006.

3.4 The Commons Act 2006

The Act and subsequent regulations replaced the provisions in the Law of Property Act 1925. Various works including fencing, digging of ditches and the erection of buildings can now only be carried out on the Green, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State who will consider various public interest matters when determining the issue.

The combination of these controls ensures the maintenance and preservation of the Green as a Green and the control of activities that might take place on the Green.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

The Crown Lease of 1955

7. ENGLEFIELD GREEN CRICKET CLUB LICENCE (DAL)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Committee on the current position regarding the grant of the Licence to the Englefield Green Cricket Club.

2. Report

2.1 At its meeting in June 2007 the Committee resolved that the Director of Administration and Leisure be authorised to grant Englefield Green Cricket Club a 3 year licence for the use of the Pavilion and cricket pitch and to settle its terms in accordance with the framework set out in the report and the licence to include provision for the Club to take up the option of a 28 year lease.

2.2 There were two matters remaining to be resolved before the licence could be completed. The first matter concerned CCTV and the Chairman of the Cricket Club has contacted officers to say that the cricket club does not have the funds available at present to pay for the proposed CCTV system even if grant aided. However, fund raising projects are in hand and when the Cricket Club's financial position improves then the provision of CCTV will be reconsidered. The second matter related to the siting of the fairs and at its meeting in February 2009 the Committee resolved that Carters Steam Fair be permitted to use the northern end of the Green in late summer/autumn 2009 and that Beaches fair would not be allowed on the Green. The licence documentation has now been amended and sent to the Cricket Club's legal adviser and it is hoped that the licence can be completed in the near future

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

Relevant Papers on DAL file on Cricket Club

8. PREMISES LICENCE (DAL)

The Council has applied for licences under the Licensing Act 2003 for those open spaces where regular annual community events such as fetes and fairs are held, including Englefield Green. These

licences will allow certain types of entertainment and will remove the need for organisers of events to obtain individual licences each year and will simplify the planning of their events. At Englefield Green permission for individual events would still be subject to views of this Committee and in the absence of a scheduled meeting the views of the Chairman would be sought. There are no specific plans to increase the number of events at any of the licensed sites.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

Application submitted by the Council.

9. HONORARY WARDENS REPORT (DAL)

The Honorary Wardens have expressed concern about the reinstatement of grass along the edge of the Green opposite the children's playground. This area was reinstated after the County Council repaired the edge of the road surface but, because people continue to park cars on it, the grass has not grown and there is now a narrow strip of bare earth. Officers agree that this needs re-seeding and protecting while the grass establishes and will speak to the County Council about doing this in the Autumn.

The Honorary Wardens also report that there have been many favourable comments about the improved litter collection regime around the Green and that comments about the cutting of the grass have generally been positive. There has been some concern, however, about the vegetation in the ditches which is cut less frequently than the rest of the Green. There was one complaint about the toilets being locked at 11.30am one day. This was due to an oversight by the toilet attendant.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None.

10. CHURCH EVENT (DAL)

St Jude's Church in Englefield Green, is celebrating its Sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary this year. As part of the celebrations, they have planned a number of events for the whole community, including a programme of monthly concerts and a historical exhibition. During the next few months, they are planning a summer fair, an exhibition of children's artwork from St Jude's school, a flower festival, the Runnymede Art's Society annual exhibition, a scavenger/treasure hunt and a hog roast. They have approached the Council seeking permission to hold the hog roast on the Green. They are planning to have this following the scavenger/treasure hunt around the village. The hunt and hog roast will be completely free and open to everyone in the village. They have yet to decide on a date for this event but are considering either the second or third Sunday in September.

THE COMMITTEE IS ASKED TO CONSIDER –

whether they would support the holding of the hog roast on the Green so that officers can advise the church accordingly.

OFFICERS RECOMMENDATION that –

if the Committee approve the principle of St Jude's Church having a hog roast on Englefield Green as part of its Sesquicentennial celebrations Officers be authorised to approve the event application when it is received.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Letter from Church requesting permission for the event.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

where appropriate the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of reports under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the reports in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(TO RESOLVE)

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection

a)	Exempt Information	Para
12.	PLAY AREA EXTENSION	3
b)	Confidential Information	
	(No reports to be considered under this heading).	