

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 25 November 2016

PRESENT:

Councillor Duffin, Joint Chair in the Chair.

Councillors Austin, Ellison, Frank, Fry, Hobbs, Dr Mahony, Smith, Sparling and Trubody.

Co-opted Representative: Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Candy, Carson and Mrs Pengelly.

Also in attendance: Nick Butcher (Head Gardener/Ranger), Chris Burton (Mount Edgcumbe Park Manager), Mr S Creese (Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park), Sarah Fell (Business Partner), Jon James (Natural Environment Manager), Peter Marsh (Service Director Environment), David Marshall (Business Development Manager), Nicola Moyle (Head of Heritage and Arts), Jon Selman (Plymouth Energy Community), Helen Wright (Democratic Adviser).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.10 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest by members in accordance with the code of conduct.

14. **Minutes**

The Joint Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2016 are confirmed as a correct record.

Following a request at the previous meeting, the Head of Heritage and Arts (Nicola Moyle) provided a verbal update on the current position relating to the provision of a water transport service; work was currently being undertaken with the existing water transport provider and the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership, in order to provide a more joined up approach.

15. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

16. **Co-Opted Representative**

Agreed that Mr Neil Rugg the Chair of the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park is confirmed as a co-opted representative for the current municipal year.

17. **Update on Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coastal Communities**

Councillor Trubody (Vice Chair of the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Coast Communities) provided a verbal update on the progress of the partnership which included the key projects in the plan (the provision of a jetty at Torpoint and improvement works to the jetty at Cremyll), funding streams and work with other coastal communities in the area to achieve shared aims.

The Joint Committee noted the update.

18. **Plymouth Energy Community**

Jon Selman (Plymouth Energy Community) provided a presentation on Mount Edgcumbe LED and biomass proposals which included the following key points –

- background information relating to Plymouth Energy Community);
- Proposals for Mount Edgcumbe (including LED lighting proposals and biomass heating proposal;
- benefits for Mount Edgcumbe;
- capital costs, business case and options.

The main areas of questioning related to the comparable cost of woodchip and pellets and the efficiency savings arising from the scheme.

The Joint Committee agreed that it supports the pursuant of energy efficiency savings and delegate the final decision of the business case to officers in consultation with the Joint Chairs.

19. **Revenue Budget Monitoring**

Sarah Fell (Business Partner) presented the revenue budget monitoring 2016/17 which provided an update on the current financial position for the 2016/17.

The Joint Committee noted the financial position as reported together with the risks, issues and mitigating actions.

20. **Report on Park Activity to September 2016**

The Strategic Director for Place and the Service Director Environment submitted a report which provided an update on activities in the Park 2016/17. The report highlighted the following key areas –

- Park matters including High Level Stewardship;
- buildings and park infrastructure;
- business development;
- weddings.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

21. **Friends of Mount Edgcombe Country Park - Update**

Mr Steve Creese provided a verbal update on the key areas of work that the Friends of Mount Edgcombe had undertaken since July 2016, which included the provision of funding for the Elizabethan Garden, assistance at events and future funding projects (which included the replacement of two golf buggies).

The key areas of questioning related to the continued commitment of the constituent authorities to continue to support the Park, the need for a marketing strategy and an enhanced website which included the social media networks.

On behalf of the Joint Committee, the Chair, thanked the Friends of Mount Edgcombe for their continued commitment and support.

22. **Update on the Repair Works to Sea Wall**

Jon James (Cornwall Council) provided a verbal update on the current position relating to the repair works to the sea wall which highlighted that –

- (a) the application had been submitted with a re-focus on the protection of businesses and transport links rather than residential properties;
- (b) it was anticipated that 30% of the costs would be funded through this application with the remaining sum being met from the constituent authorities;
- (c) tenders for the work were due back on 16/17 December 2016; the contract would be awarded after Christmas with work commencing for a period of 14 weeks in February 2017.

The main area of questioning related to the impact of the delay in commencing these works.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

23. **Exempt Business**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

24. **Revenue Budget Monitoring 2016/17 (Appendix 2)**

Sarah Fell (Business Partner) presented the revenue budget monitoring 2016/17 (appendix 2) report.

The Joint Committee agreed to recommend approval of the business case to the Leader (Plymouth City Council).

25. **Capital Bid**

Chris Burton (Park Manager) provided an update on the proposals for the capital bid for the Park which were contained within the business case.

The Joint Committee noted the update.