

20th March 2024 - 5.30pm

COOKSON ROOM

Present

Martin Andrew (MA), Sue Totty, Jo Lloyd, Martyn Green, Dave Stonley, Chris Hornsby, David N Jones, Dean Bailly

Apologies

Hywel Jones, Liam Lewis, Jo Ratcliffe, Paul Jamieson

Remit of Meeting

To review Action plan and progression to date, and discuss any relevant points.

EGM Update

Further to last night's EGM following a members requisition to discuss irrigation and drainage, with a proposal to divert a significant sum from irrigation to fund drainage improvements, MA updated the group to confirm that Council will meet on 27th March to discuss the EGM and decide next steps. He also noted that, subsequent to the meeting, many members have been in touch to provide feedback on the meeting and confirm their support for the irrigation project.

Project Action Plan

Paul Jamieson had provided an updated system status report in his absence to CH and MA, who will forward to JL for distribution to the group post meeting.

Achievements this period include:

Irrigation consultant and contractor commitment secured – complete subject to contract.

Irrigation design and requirements baselined – complete.

Power upgrade plan agreed – subject to contract signing.

Borehole plan agreed – design complete and costings firmed up.

Final baseline cost estimates agreed – full set of procured costs agreed in line with original estimates.

Next period priorities:

Council to consider EGM feedback and advise project team of update.

Council approval required to execute contracts with Irrigation Control (including Rainbird), Dales Water and SP Energy Networks.

Commence preliminary works on borehole.

Final sign off for baseline costs.

Equipment Suppliers

MA confirms that, having met with Rainbird and Toro on multiple occasions and receiving presentations from both alongside final quotations, that we have selected Rainbird as our preferred supplier with the agreement of our Course Manager. We believe that this is the better choice for our

system, alongside quality, value, control system and 'rain can' weather system. Both suppliers, alongside Irrigation Control, have been informed of our decision.

Irrigation Control – BOQ's

DS has assisted in trimming down the final quotations as much as possible, alongside reductions in specification for items such as a weather station, water fountain, additional sprinkler heads which are deemed to be unnecessary and will not compromise performance if removed. An extended guarantee of 9 years has been provided on materials. The BOQ have therefore reduced in costs since the original specification due to the changes and savings made.

On a separate matter – Irrigation Control have also committed to tee sponsorship for the 2024 year, and Rainbird are considering this currently.

Irrigation Control will now review the BOQ again to prepare the contracts in conjunction with Adrian Mortram for issue. There will be up to two weeks for the turnaround on the collation of this contract. In terms of being able to sign contracts to move forward, we hope to be in a position to do this following the Council meeting on 27th March, at which time MA will request approval to commit to these contracts. The cut-off date for Rainbird before their annual price increase will be automatically added to our sums is 7th April, therefore we need to provide them with our commitment prior to this date. Lee Knight of Irrigation Control has advised that an email to confirm this should suffice. Once we receive the Irrigation Control contract, MG will review, and DS will also ask his colleague to run their eye over it for any obvious issues. We will need to manage lead in times and delivery of materials carefully.

Environment Agency Licence Variation

Jonathon Dalton of Dales Water has reverted to advise that the Environment Agency has rejected the variance application for an increase in our current licence. This does provide some future limitations, but no risk to the solution. MA has discussed whether we would be able to appeal this decision, but Jonathon does not believe this is worthwhile as it would be very difficult and time consuming to make a case which would have to be based on hydrology of the course and may be very expensive, and also unlikely to work as this is the way the Environment Agency are moving now. In terms of impact to the system, Adrian Mortram has advised that there should be no compromise to performance and we do not need to redesign or change the specification in his professional opinion. However, he does recommend looking into options for increased water storage such as a second storage tank, and also consider water harvesting which MA advises him is already in discussion. Dean Baily confirms that we can still service the greens and tees on the capacity provision, and although we had requested the higher figure to allow for full cycle capacity, Dean confirms this would be very rarely needed. Also, he notes that our current sprinkler system does not allow for 'spot' irrigation to certain tees, which the new system will do and therefore will be far more efficient and effective than we have currently and require less water. One positive is that, now the decision has been made by the Environment Agency, it should speed up the licence and they have already confirmed that the water testing samples sent have been approved. We had requested the higher capacity figure to allow the club to 'future proof' other developments to the course, and agree that this does not hinder our progress in this installation.

Borehole and Water Tank

In terms of the borehole, we had previously agreed that an 8" bore diameter was appropriate based on conversations with Irrigation Control and Dales Water. However, following subsequent discussions

and the refused by the Environment Agency of the licence variation, MA spoke again to Lee Knight and Jonathon Dalton who agreed that a 6" will be sufficient for our needs alongside other initiatives with a separate water tank and water harvesting as this moves us to a 6" diameter with more certainty than we had previously – this was agreed by the team. Adrian Mortram also does not believe that there is any need to change the specification or design due to this reduction. An engineer will be on site tomorrow to review the borehole location in the compound. The provisional start date for drilling at present is mid-May and MA will ask how long this is likely to take in total. He will also check starting arrangements for electricity for the pump and whether there would be any change to the pump spec in moving from 8" to 6" diameter.

Nick Belderbos and Neil Culkin (planning consultant) are working together to submit the application for the water tank and we await an update on timescales. We should be able to place the order after Council confirm approval at the upcoming meeting. In preparation, spoil has been moved back to allow the concrete base to be poured for the tank siting in the compound.

3 Phase Electricity

On 3 phase electricity, we have received a revised offer from SP Energy Networks to carry out the works as agreed with Jonathon Andrew, who has been instrumental in assisting the club to get to this stage and identify any cost savings prior to signing the contract. SP will connect to the sub-station. We will still need to engage another contractor to work on the consumer boards and electricity connection in the sheds and project costs include this element.

Our staff will create the trench for SP Energy Networks to lay the cable. Once we place the order, we need to identify a date as soon as possible to appoint an engineer. We will check with the engineer on requirements for bedding and backfitting for trenching once cables are laid. CH asked that invoices should be dated 1st April onwards to reclaim VAT element.

The shortest route for the cable is down the left side of the 13th – inevitably there will be some disruption which will be managed. The Course plans will need to be amended to identify these cables. We may also look to install pipe drainage to this area prior to the installation of 3 phase electricity to enable us to connect this up at a later stage.

CDM Regulations

To comply with CDM Regulations, Adrian Mortram has confirmed that we need to engage a consultant who can review the risk assessment and documentation and confirm that this abides by all legal requirements. DS will make enquiries with other members who may be able to assist.

Communication

Sue Totty will review information from this meeting to identify the next update for members, collating key points from the progress update report and minutes.

AOB

Trevor Moon has asked for updated costs on the borehole, electricity upgrade and a copy of the signed letter of intent to include in the pre-application for the land sale which JL will send over.

A query from club member John Heath following the EGM earlier this week was discussed in respect of why we were moving the water tank and pump house to the compound. Lee Knight of Irrigation Control has provided a detailed response which confirms this to be a much more efficient design and

specification, alongside reasons for the re-siting. He also confirms that there is also likely to be less power used on the new system than the old.

Date of next meeting TBA.