

COUNCIL 21 July 2021

MINUTE EXTRACT

33/21 Motion: Allestree Golf Course and Hall

The following motion was moved by Councillor Skelton, and seconded by Councillor Repton:

In January 2020 the Council advertised the opportunity to operate Allestree Golf Course via an online subscription-only magazine and some local publicity. The Hall was separately offered for sale via estate agents. No publicity was done in the specialist golfing media.

Since the announcement of the Council's preferred bidder, questions have been asked by the campaign group Save Allestree Golf Course (see their website www.saveallestreegolfcourse.co.uk) expressing concerns about various aspects of the process used to choose the successful bidder for the Hall and the knock-on effects of that choice on the process to find a private organisation to operate the course as a separate entity.

Council notes with concern the current situation regarding Allestree Park Golf Course and Allestree Hall. Of particular concern is the process used to identify potential bidders. Serious bidders have since come forward with credible plans. They were not reached by the Council's initial publicity.

The separating of the Hall from the Golf Course means facilities essential for running the Golf Course are not available e.g. the irrigation system controls and the water tank are within the curtilage of the Hall. In fact the preferred bidder's plans would see the water tank destroyed. This is despite it being covered by the Grade II listing.*

Basic research has revealed that the Golf Course was designed by the much-acclaimed golf course designer Harry S Colt, yet no mention was made of this in any of the publicity the Council did.

Council therefore requests that Cabinet and Council officers do not give a further time extension to the company that, although the preferred bidder, has been unable to finalise the deal.

Council also requests that Cabinet and Council officers ask Marketing Derby to identify suitable organisations who are interested in operating the Hall and Golf Course in an integrated manner or the golf course as a separate entity.

The motion was put to the vote and carried.

Resolved:

In January 2020 the Council advertised the opportunity to operate Allestree Golf Course via an online subscription-only magazine and some local publicity. The Hall was separately offered for sale via estate agents. No publicity was done in the specialist golfing media.

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MAYOR