

## Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee

### Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 19 January 2017, 19.30h, No 3.

Held in the Hewitt Room,  
The Memorial Hall, Wheathampstead AL4 8AY.

#### Present

Councillors	John Newton-Davies	Chairman
	David Johnston	Vice Chairman
	Janet Churchard	
	Gill Clark	
	Sandra Wood	

Officers	Nick Sherriff	Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader, St Albans District Council
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Administrator	Julia Warren	Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
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#### **102-17 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Claudio Duran and Judy Shardlow.

#### **103-17 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Councillor Newton-Davies declared an interest as a member of the Woodland Trust. Councillors Newton-Davies and Johnston declared an interest as members of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

#### **104-17 Minutes of Committee meeting of 20 October 2016**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 2016 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

#### **105-17 Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader Progress Report**

##### 1. Vacancies

The officer confirmed that vacancies within the team had now been filled.

##### 2. Revision of byelaws

The SADC Legal Department had allocated time for officers to look into updating the Commons byelaws. Once a draft set of byelaws had been produced the management committee would be able to comment on them and include specific items relating to the Common. This work was scheduled for 2017.

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### 3. Rabbit control

Richard Sweetland had been contracted to undertake rabbit control on the common once the Council was in receipt of his public liability insurance and risk assessments.

### 4. Find on Nomansland

The Middle/Late Bronze Age Spearhead reported at Minute 97-16 had been donated to Verulamium Museum by The Althorp Estate.

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/q/wilt-0e9825>

### 5. Interpretation board

It was reported that the interpretation board could not be found, officers would enquire into the cost of the replacement. Site interpretation would be an action in the new management plan.

### 6. West End Car Park

The specification and application to the Secretary of State had yet to be undertaken due to staff resources. CMS would be taking on this project in 2017.

### 7. Management Plan

The site management plan was in its final year, with this in mind CMS had been commissioned to produce a new management plan.

### 8. Forestry work winter 2016

The forestry work had now been completed for 2016. The work was carried out over two weeks and had greatly improved the woodland areas. The open ride/ path on the east side would need connecting to Dyke Lane and would be carried out in summer.

### 9. Proposed extension of permissive bridleway

Any project around the extension of surfacing would need external funding, Secretary of State and Natural England permission. Currently there was not funding or resources assigned to this project. It could be consulted on as part of the new management plan.

**Resolved**

**To note the report**

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### **106-17 Report from Countryside Ranger**

The SADC Officer advised that the new Ranger, Laura McLellan, had moved to a new job, John O'Conner had assured officers that an interim presence would be provided pending her replacement.

**Resolved To note the Report**

### **107-17 Commemorative bench request**

A request for a commemorative bench had been received. It was agreed that Councillor Johnston liaise with the gentlemen, who was an acquaintance, and then with the Green Spaces and Cemetery team.

**Resolved Councillor Johnston to action the request and pass to the Green Spaces and Cemetery team**

### **108-17 Broadband cabinet location request**

It was reported that BT Openreach, as part of the super-fast broadband project, wished to locate a BT broadband cabinet on the east side of the B651 near the junction of Dyke Lane. Wayleave permission was being sought. Councillor Newton-Davies proposed, seconded by Councillor Churchard, and it was agreed that in principal, subject to consent from relevant authorities on size and impact on the street scene, the siting was acceptable.

**Resolved To agree in principal the siting of a Broadband cabinet by the B651 adjacent to its junction with Dyke Lane, subject to wayleave and to consent from relevant authorities over size and impact on the street scene.**

### **109-17 Items raised by Committee Members: Cycle route and Nomansland Nature Quest**

Councillor Wood enquired about progress regarding a cycle path across Nomansland linking Wheathampstead and Sandridge. No update was forthcoming, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan would in time cover the area.

Councillor Newton-Davies advised that local primary schools would continue to enjoy Nomansland Nature Quest activities, generally centred around the woodland near West End Farm.

**Resolved To note the reports**

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### **110-17 User groups and comments from members of the public**

Further to Minute 100-17 it was reported that a few inconsiderate dog owners did not control their pets and horses were being chased. Dog mess was also a problem. As noted at Minute 105-17 the byelaws were being updated and would address these concerns.

**Resolved To note the reports.**

### **111-17 Date of next meeting**

Committee Meeting number 4 – Thursday 13 April 2017 7.30pm.

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.50hrs.**

**Dated this            day of            2017**

**Chairman**

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