

**Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee****Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 22 October, 19.30h, No 2**

Held at Wheathampstead Memorial Hall,  
following an afternoon inspection of the Common.

Present	Councillors	J Newton-Davies	Chairman
		D Johnston	Vice Chairman
		G Clark	
		C Duran	
		S Wood	
		J Shardlow	
		D Hughes	
	Officers	N Sherriff	Parks & Green Spaces Officer
		C Hawkins	Countryside Ranger
	Administrator	Louise Harrison	Deputy Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
		Press	0
		Public	4

**57-15 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from L Neicho (Woodland Trust) and Robert Hill.

**58-15 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

J Newton Davies is a member of the Woodland Trust.  
D Johnston is a member of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

**59-15 Minutes of Committee meeting of 11 June 2015**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2015 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2015 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**60-15 Countryside Ranger Progress Report**

It was reported that the ragwort pulling day on 4 August had been well attended and 50 bags filled. The Chairman thanked everyone for their work on that day.

It was reported that CMS volunteers had done a lot of work cutting back scrub and coppicing blackthorn bushes, work which was continuing this month.

In August work was done to clear brambles and birch from the rabbit enclosure areas.

It had been noted that with the closure of Heartwood Forest car park there had been an increased footfall over the Common which had continued after the car park had reopened.

The annual butterfly walk had taken place at the end of September and had been very well attended and seven species identified.

Students from the University of Hertfordshire had also visited the Common recently looking at the management plan of the site.

Two incidents of fly tipping had been reported on the Common over the summer and one incident of antisocial behaviour by a motor bike rider that had been reported to police. The Ranger confirmed she would install posters reminding members of the public to call 101 if they come across crime or anti-social behaviour.

The Ranger had had an enquiry with regards to the pile of scalping's in the Cricket Club car park. It was recommended that the Deputy Clerk contact the Cricket Club to clarify this.

It was confirmed that enquiries were still continuing with CMS to locate and reinstall the missing interpretation board.

- Resolved**
- 1. To note the report.**
  - 2. Deputy Clerk to contact the Cricket Club with regards to pile of scalping's in car park area.**
  - 3. Ranger to make further enquiries to locate and reinstall interpretation board.**
  - 4. Ranger to put up "Call 101" posters.**

## **61-15**

### **Parks & Open Spaces Officer's Progress Report including points emerging from the inspection of the Common.**

The Officer confirmed that the earlier inspection of the Common had shown the need for a programme of winter rabbit ferreting. It was confirmed that a contractor had been authorised to undertake this work by the Officer.

The inspection of the area where woodland work had previously taken place was now showing lots of tree growth. It was confirmed that no further tree work would now take place until winter 2016.

It was confirmed that work will be undertaken to widen paths to 1500mm and for the removal of shrubs, and the Officer would confirm with John O'Conner's that the areas on the map matched the actual site for this work.

It was reported that the southern hedge line restoration work was half way complete and that that hedges were being taken back to where the historic boundary would have been. The officer confirmed that he would check the boundary detail with the Chairman.

It was confirmed that bollard replacements had been installed to improve access but brass padlocks had been stolen and replacement locking nuts were being ordered

A tree survey had been completed on the public access areas and work had been identified to cut the dying lower limbs from large oaks.

It was confirmed that the annual meadow cut had taken place and that as last year the volume had been low and unfit for baling.

With regards to the half yearly accounts all items on the ground maintenance contract had been paid for by SADC.

A discussion took place with regards to improving and cleaning road signage and it was agreed that both Sandridge and Wheathampstead Parish Councils (WPC) would pursue this with County Councillors, including a new horse crossing sign for Ferrers Lane and the B651.

A discussion took place with regards to the car parking issues opposite West End farm. It was requested that this matter be taken back to WPC. The Officer was requested to forward site plans to WPC. See 64-15 below.

The Officer confirmed that SADC did not have the necessary resources to review the byelaws. It was agreed that the SADC Councillor would speak to the appropriate portfolio holder to progress a review of the byelaws.

Access points were discussed and the Chairman agreed to contact the Woodland Trust with regards to finger posts and clear path access.

- Resolved**
- 1. To note the report.**
  - 2. Officer to confirm with John O'Connors the areas on site map match actual site for path work.**
  - 3. Officer to confirm boundary detail of hedge line restoration work with the Chairman.**
  - 4. STADC Councillor to speak to the appropriate portfolio holder to progress a review of the byelaws.**
  - 5. Chairman to contact Woodland Trust with regards to finger posts and clear path access. *The Woodlands Trust have verbally agreed to match fund the cost of two finger posts.***

## **62-15**

### **Items raised by members of the Committee and public**

#### 1. Puddingstone

A discussion took place regarding a bench. It was agreed that members would feedback their thoughts direct to the Chairman and Vice Chairman and that the Deputy Clerk would contact the Cricket Club to see if they had identified a supplier for a semi-circular bench made of oak.

#### 2. Visit to Bricket Wood

The Officer proposed a visit to Bricket Wood Common by the Joint Committee to compare issues of interest in spring 2016. This was agreed.

#### 3. Parking at West End Farm

Parking, access for horses, contractors and disability scooters at West End Farm was discussed as noted above 61-15. It was agreed that WPC were to discuss and review use of land where cars park opposite the West End farm entrance.

#### 4. Model Aircraft Flying.

Members were requested to consider amending the bye laws to allow the flying of one internal combustion propelled model aircraft be allowed to fly on Sundays. A member of the public put forward their objections to this request. Following further discussion and a vote (with one abstention) it was agreed not to allow internal combustion propelled model aircraft be flown on Sundays.

- Resolved**
- 1. Members to feedback their thoughts direct to the Chairman and Vice Chairman with regards to a bench or other suggestions for the Puddingstone.**
  - 2. Deputy Clerk to contact the Cricket Club to**

**see if they had identified a supplier for a semi-circular bench made of oak. *The Cricket Club have confirmed that they have not been able to identify a supplier.***

- 3. WPC were to discuss and review use of land where cars parking opposite West End farm.**
- 4. The Officer to organise a visit to Bricket Wood Common and joint committee in spring of 2016.**
- 5. Not to allow internal combustion propelled model aircraft to fly on Sundays.**

**63-15 Date of next meeting**

Committee Meeting 3 – 14 January 2016

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.10 hrs.**

**Dated this            day of                            2016**

**Chairman**