

**Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee****Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 14 January, 19.30h, No 3**

Held at the Memorial Hall, Wheathampstead

Present	Councillors	J Newton-Davies	Chairman
		D Johnston	Vice Chairman
		G Clark	
		S Wood	
	Officers	Nick Sherriff	Parks & Green Spaces Officer
		Charlotte Hawkins	Countryside Ranger
	Administrator	Julia Warren	Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
		Press	0
		Public	6

**64-16 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors C Duran and J Shardlow.

**65-16 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Councillor Newton-Davies declared an interest as member of Heartwood Forest, Councillor Johnston as member of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

**66-16 Minutes of Committee meeting of 22 October 2015**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2015 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**67-16 Parks & Open Spaces Officer's Progress Report**

Nick Sherriff reported that all expenditure would be kept within Council budgets.

In respect of Hedge line restoration work CMS supervised volunteers had been cutting back the blackthorn and stacking it ready for the contractors to chip. Three quotes were obtained for the work and a contractor had been selected to carry out chipping of existing brash and the clearance of 100m. The contractors were waiting for a break in the weather / suitable ground conditions to get vehicles onto site. Work would be carried out before the end of February.

Tree deadwood pruning

Following on from the common inspection with the Management

Committee, officers had obtained three quotes to carry out dead wood removal over the main paths of the common. This work was expected to take 2-3 days. The informal swing area and some uprooted cherries would also be made safe.

Officers are waiting for the date of the annual inspection of Bricket Wood Common (usually July) by the Bricket Wood Management Committee to see if Nomansland Management Committee members were permitted to attend and see grazing in action. This would be raised at their meeting on 9 February when the date would be set. Any visit would need to occur in May.

Unfortunately a number of the existing byelaw signs were removed by an unknown person. Officers and the grounds maintenance contractor were arranging to get new signs installed.

**Resolved**                      **To note the report**

**68-16**                      **Countryside Ranger Progress Report**

It was reported that CMS and Environment Agency corporate volunteers had, as noted at Minute 67-16, cleared a large area of blackthorn creating a significant amount of brash, which would be collected when the ground was firmer.

Silver birch encroachment near the climbing tree had also been removed.

John O'Conner had cut back the footpaths and rides and flailed the hedge boundary to the NW side. Rabbit ferreting was imminent.

Three incidents of fly tipping had been cleared

The bollard at West End Farm was reported as stiffly embedded into its socket.

**Resolved**                      **To note the report.**

**69-16**                      **Items raised by Committee Members**

**Evidencing the Puddingstone**

Further to Minute 55-15 The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed, that a semi-circular teak bench with fixings into the ground be installed adjacent to the puddingstone.

**Model Aircraft Flyers – Sunday pilot**

Representations had been received by the chairman. It was agreed that no decision regarding Sunday flying be revisited for six months.

**Parking adjacent to West End Farm**

It was reported that Wheathampstead Parish Council acknowledged the need for access to the Common near West End Farm for horses and people. In principal and subject to funding availability they were open to considering a parking proposal.

**Bricket Wood Common Visit**

Councillor Bell, St Stephen's Parish Council invited members to join their Bricket Wood Common inspection in May /June (date to be confirmed ) and see cattle grazing. He also invited those present to

