

Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 13 April 2017, 19.30h, No 4.

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

Present

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

Officers Nick Sherriff Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team
Leader, St Albans District Council
Sophie Barker Countryside Ranger
Administrator Julia Warren Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish
Council

Press 0
Public 3

112-17 Introductions and Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Claudio Duran, David Johnston and Judy Shardlow. Sophie Barker, the new countryside ranger, was welcomed and introductions made.

113-17 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Newton-Davies declared an interest as a member of the Woodland Trust.

114-17 Minutes of Committee meeting of 19 January 2017

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

115-17 Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader Progress Report

1. 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 and would form part of the management plan.

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2. Rabbit control

Over 60 rabbits have been culled over the winter through shooting and ferreting

3. Cricket Nets and Outfield

The Cricket Club had requested permission to replace the nets with others somewhat longer but still on existing base. They also wished to discuss what could be done to the outfield as it was currently potentially dangerous.

4. Interpretation board

It was reported that the cost for a new sign and board wooden surround on existing legs was £645

5. Management Plan

CMS were drafting a briefing document for consultation which would be ready for the JMC July inspection.

6. Proposed extension of permissive bridleway

Any project for the extension of Footpath 32 surfacing would require external funding and both Secretary of State and Natural England permission. Currently there were no funds or resources assigned to this project. However the local access forum and Herts County Council had expressed interest in getting involved in the project and possibly looking for external funding. This would be consulted on as part of the new management plan.

Resolved **To note the report**

Councillor Wood arrived during this item

116-17 **Report from Countryside Ranger**

Sophie Barker, the new Ranger, advised that she had undertaken a fair amount of litter picking. Her background was education and she would be working closely with local schools. She would be organising a ragwort pulling session in July and this would be advertised so volunteers could participate.

Resolved **To note the Report**

117-17 **Commemorative bench request**

Further to Minute 107-17 a preferred location for the commemorative bench had been received. Details of the gentlemen, were to be passed to the Green Spaces and Cemetery team.

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Resolved **To note the request and pass to the Green Spaces and Cemetery team**

118-17 **Broadband cabinet location request**

Further to Minute 108-17 it was reported that BT Openreach now had wayleave permission, as part of the super-fast broadband project, and wished to locate a BT broadband cabinet on the east side of the B651 near the junction of Dyke Lane.

Resolved **To note the report**

119-17 **Items raised by Committee Members: Common's users' interaction: horses and aircraft**

A member of the public had contacted the Chairman and raised concerns about aircraft being flown inappropriately and too close to her horse. She had not attended the meeting but the issue was discussed with representatives present from the British Horse Society and the Flyers. Flyers were to be reminded to avoid flying aircraft near to horses, horse riders were to be asked to avoid going up to the fly zone.

Resolved **To note the report.**

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

Gate access

Thanks were received for the sign advising people to leave access clear to the gate near West End Farm.

Resolved **To note the report.**

111-17 **Date of next meeting**

Committee Meeting number 1 – Thursday 13 July 2017 7.30pm. The annual inspection would commence at 18:30h from the Cricket Club Car Park, followed by the meeting at 19:30h in Wheathampstead Cricket Club Pavilion.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.50h.

Dated this day of 2017

Chairman