

**Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee****Minutes of the Meeting of 12 June 2014, 19.30h, No 2**

Held at the Wheathampstead Cricket Club Pavilion

Present	Councillors	J Newton-Davies D Johnston	Chairman
	Officers	Alex Laurie Nick Sherriff  Charlotte Hawkins	CMS Parks & Green Spaces Officer Countryside Ranger
	Administrator	Louise Harrison	Deputy Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
		Press	0
		Public	5

**12-14 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor A Brewster, C Hackett, T Reason, and G Clarke.

**13-14 Replacement members**

None.

**14-14 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

Councillor Newton-Davies is a member of the Woodland Trust. Councillor Johnston is a member of Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust.

**15-14 Minutes of Committee meeting of 13 March 2014**

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014 be approved.

**Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.**

**16-14 Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The committee not being quorate this matter to be added to the next meeting's agenda, 9 October 2014

**17-14 Points emerging from the walk about**

It was agreed that a further walk around by the Committee was not required this year.

**18-14 Wheathampstead Cricket Club**

Alistair Sykes provided an update on Cricket Club matters.

### **Puddingstone**

Nick Sherriff had contacted the Althrop Estate on a number of occasions and to date they had not replied. In the last email from SADC Althrop Estate had been advised a non-response by 11 June 2014 it was assumed they have no concerns and therefore agreed to the movement of the stone. No further email had been received by the District from Althrop Estate.

It was agreed that the stone would be moved at the end of the cricket season (about September/October) and that the new location for the stone would be eastwards towards the B651 Sandridge to Wheathampstead road. Confirmation of exact location to be agreed with the District Archaeologist.

### **Dog Fouling**

A few irresponsible dog owners were not clearing up their dogs mess. It was agreed that C Hawkins would promote the use of dog litter bins.

### **Rabbits**

It was confirmed that ferrets would again be used once vegetation had been cleared by CMS in order to reduce the rabbit population.

### **Advertising and Byelaws**

Byelaws remain under review but temporary permission for advertising during matches in the cricket season is currently being sought.

### **Pavilion**

No issues reported.

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

**19-14**

### **Parks & Open Spaces Officer's Progress Report**

Nick Sherriff reported on progress since the March meeting. All works were within Council budgets and there were no legal or property implications.

CMS Volunteers had undertaken silver birch thinning and installed a new protective enclosure for heather species.

John O'Connor GM Ltd had appointed a Countryside Ranger, Charlotte Hawkins, to undertake 9 hours work at Nomansland and 9 hours at Bricket Wood per week.

Alex Laurie had drawn up phase two of the access improvements on the common which include improving sightlines (especially along Ferrers Lane) and removing redundant posts and barriers.

It was also confirmed that funding for tree felling had also been applied for with the Forestry Commission as part of the woodland management plan. Thinning on the woodland would improve and conserve habitat.

Nick reported that he was waiting for the legal department to complete the Bye-law revision and that existing bye-laws would be printed on plastic and installed by the Countryside Ranger C Hawkins.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports.**
  - 2 Existing bye-laws to be put up on the common when printed by District**

#### **20-14 Report from Countryside Ranger**

C Hawkins gave a brief presentation of her employment and educational background. She confirmed she would be completing the Police Accreditation Scheme and her work hours were Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sunday lunchtimes on the Common. Duties included litter picking, tidying and cutting back nettles/brambles.

She confirmed that a team would be attending the Common to clear footpaths. She reported that there had been one fly tipping incident which had been cleared.

It was proposed by D Johnston that Charlotte be invited to the Ranger meetings at Wheathampstead Parish Council.

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports**
  - 2 To invite the Countryside Ranger to WPC Ranger meetings.**

#### **21-14 Access points for Heartwood Forest**

During the walk around the Common potential access points had been visited and it was agreed that Louise Neicho of the Woodland Trust be invited to the next meeting to discuss on 9 October 2014

- Resolved**
- 1 To note the reports**
  - 2 Invite Louise Neicho to next meeting to discuss access points**

#### **22-14 Items raised by members of the Committee**

None

#### **23-14 Date of next meeting**

Committee Meeting 2 - Thursday 09 October 2014, 19.30h at WPC Memorial Hall, Marford Road, Wheathampstead.

**The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.30h.**

**Dated this            day of            2014**

**Chairman**