

Nomansland Joint Management Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 5 April 2018, 19:30, No 4

Held at Wheathampstead Memorial Hall

Present:	Councillors	John Newton-Davies	Chairman
		Janet Churchard	
		Gill Clark	
		Claudio Duran	
		David Johnston	
		Sandra Wood	
	Officers	Nick Sherriff	Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader, St Albans District Council
		Faye Tuffnell	Countryside Ranger
		Ellie Beach	Projects Officer, Countryside Management Service
		J Warren	Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
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152-18 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

153-18 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Tessa Reason.

154-18 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

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

155-18 Minutes of the meeting of 1 February 2018

It was noted that the Council was responsible for ensuring that the Common was not damaged, and that through its terms of reference and scheme of management it was suitably managed for the benefit of the community. The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2018 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

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156-18 Countryside Rangers' Report

The Countryside Ranger's report had been circulated. She reported on the cutting back of paths and rides from encroaching brambles, her litter-picks and removal of disposable BBQs, and support in removing fly tipping and amateur horse jumps. Together with Ellie Beech and CMS volunteers, work had begun in the acid grassland.

The cold weather had limited use of the refugia mats. Red and black ants, woodlice, snails, millipedes and centipedes had been found, plus some large black beetles. There was an abundance of birdlife and significant evidence of moths, including male and female *Diurnea fagella* moths spotted on an Oak trunk covered in foliose lichens; bumble bees and evidence of a badger sett near Heartwood Forest.

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that permission be given to the Herts County Moth Recorder to arrange regular evening moth surveys including vehicular access to the Common from April to October. The police would be informed of these visits and the Moth group asked to notify the immediate neighbours who may otherwise be concerned about lights on the Common during night time hours.

Resolved:

- **To note the report**
- **To give permission for moth surveys April – October including vehicular access to the Common.**

157-18 Countryside Management Service Project Officer Report

GAP Update

- The deadline was extended for a month until 28th March 2018 as there was a delay in displaying posters.
- Total of 13 replies generally positive – including comments from District Archaeologist, Forestry Commission, Natural England, Local Councillor, Wheathampstead Parish Council, St Albans Museum, Butterfly Conservation, Herts Moth Group, St Albans and District Footpath Society, Footpath Friends and St Albans Cycle Campaign.
- Main comments were about cycle path extension from Heartwood and changing the grass cutting regime of the southern side of the site which would impact on butterflies and invertebrates.
- Comments were fed into the plan and the decision was made not to change the grass cutting regime during this 5 year plan but to extend butterfly surveys to cover more of the site and carry out another Wildlife Site Survey at the end of the plan.
- The plan would be circulated to the committee then put up onto the website and an email sent round to all those involved in the engagement process.

Volunteer Activity

- Two volunteer task days were held during the winter, on 27th Feb (9 volunteers) and 20th March (15 volunteers).
- Tasks centred around the heather enclosures, where saplings and encroaching brambles were removed to allow more light to reach the

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ground flora. Encroaching vegetation removal was also carried out around the heather areas by the bench and interpretation panel.

- The volunteers would return later in the year to remove old signs, replace waymarker posts and relocate the heather enclosures.

Car Park Update and Access

West End Car Park

- Secretary of State granted permission for the car park works on 13 February 2018.
- The tender documents were in the process of being finalised to obtain contractors' quotes for the works.

Ferrers Lane Car Park

- Proposals for minor improvements to the car park were being written up to utilise any funds left from the work at West End Car Park. These included replacing the height barrier with a lockable one to aid maintenance and emergency vehicle access, rationalising/replacing the bollards, installing a lockable bollard for vehicle access into the Common from the car park, removing encroaching vegetation to increase the number of parking bays, filling pot holes.

Bridleway 7 to Dyke Lane Linking Path

- Vegetation had been cleared by the entrance from Dyke Lane greatly improving the visibility for vehicles and pedestrians.
- Proposals were being written up to remove the large mounds of soil by the corner, level out the path and install drainage pipes, the ditch cleared out along the rest of its length, the path surfaced (permeable) for 45m from Dyke Lane before reverting back to natural woodland.

The above three items to be tendered at the same time with contractors supplying prices for each item and a combined price for doing all three. These items to be done in order of priority as listed above and dependent on funding.

158-18 Items raised by Members

The Chairman requested a costing for a replacement foamex interpretation board prior to the permanent grant funded one specified in the GAP. It was agreed that John O'Conner would clean and spruce up the current notice and interpretation boards.

159-18 User Group comments

A request for the ice cream concession to be extended to West End Farm car park was received.

The Cricket Club had requested more road scrapings that they would spread to infill potholes.

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160-18 Date of next meeting

19 July 2018, 19:30 at the Cricket Club following the Annual Inspection of the Common at 18:00.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:30

Dated this day of 2018

Chairman