

Nomansland Common Joint Management Committee

Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday 9th October 2014, 19.30h, No 3

Held at the Hewitt Room, Wheathampstead Memorial Hall

Present	Councillors	J Newton-Davies	Chairman
		D Johnston	Vice Chairman
		Geoff Churchard	
	Officers	Nick Sherriff	Parks & Green Spaces Officer
		Charlotte Hawkins	Countryside Ranger
	Administrator	Louise Harrison	Deputy Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
		Press	0
		Public	2

24-14 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors G Clark, C Hackett & S Wood.

25-14 Replacement members

None.

26-14 Specific Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Newton-Davies is a member of the Woodland Trust. Councillor Johnston and Councillor Churchard are members of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

27-14 Minutes of Committee meeting of 12 June 2014

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014 be approved.

Resolved To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2014 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

28-14 Election of Chair

Resolved To confirm the election of Cllr Newton-Davies as Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Churchard that Cllr Newton-Davies be elected as Chair; this was seconded by Cllr Johnston and agreed.

29-14 Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Cllr Newton-Davies that Cllr Johnston be

elected as Vice Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Churchard and agreed.

Resolved **To confirm the election of Cllr Johnston as Vice Chairman.**

30-14 **Countryside Ranger Progress Report**

It was confirmed that the ragwort had been removed from the meadow and hay cut and baled. It was reported that a small number of bonfires had been identified on the land, these areas had been cleared and grass was re-growing. It was also reported that the interpretation board in the car park had been stolen and was being replaced by SADC. Cllr Johnston suggested working with SADC to review the interpretation boards and combine the Nomansland and Wheathampstead Heritage Trail information.

Resolved **1 To note the report.**
2 WPC and Parks and Open Spaces Officer to investigate whether information on the current interpretation boards and Heritage Trail boards could be combined.

31-14 **Wheathampstead Cricket Club**

No update from the Cricket Club.

32-14 **Parks & Open Spaces Officer's Progress Report**

Nick Sherriff reported on the ongoing work of improving access points onto the common, including installing new street furniture and improving old street furniture, to improve disability access and access for riders. Plans were also in place to explore flooding issues on Amwell Road junction with Ferrers Lane.

Action: Parks and Open Spaces officer to contact Louise Neicho (Woodland Trust) to progress potential access points.

It was reported that trees/saplings had been marked up on the north side of the Cricket Club for taking out. Cllr Johnston recommended SADC submit the management plan to Wheathampstead Parish Council for approval.

It was reported that work was underway with contractors to cost the removal of some shrubs on the south side of Ferrers Lane.

It was reported that the re-printed bye-laws were ready for installation and that the Countryside Ranger would be organising this.

It was confirmed that the work to move the Puddingstone was in place and that all members would be informed of the date.

A member of the public from the flying Club thanked the Parks and Open Spaces officer for the good condition and upkeep of the air strip.

Resolved

- 1 To note the reports.**
- 2 Existing bye-laws to be put up on the common by the Countryside Ranger**
- 3 SADC to submit open spaces management plan to WPC for approval.**
- 4 Puddingstone to be moved.**

33-14**Items raised by members of the Committee**

A request made by the Chair that the committee have sight of the annual accounts associated with maintaining the Common was agreed.

CIlr Johnston updated the Committee with regards to the state of repairs of the Amwell Track, private land and part of the common owned by WPC but with a wayleave assigned to nearby houses for access. WPC had clarified its obligations and had been advised by their solicitors that WPC, as the landowner, was under no obligation to maintain or repair it. The current property owners (residents) could chose to bear the cost of repairs if they so choose.

34-14**Date of next meeting**

Committee Meeting 1 – Thursday19th March 2015, 19.30h at the Cricket Club on Nomansland.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.25hrs.

Dated this day of 2014

Chairman