

Nomansland Joint Management Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 5 October 2017, 19:30, No 2

Held at Wheathampstead Memorial Hall

Present:	Councillors	John Newton-Davies	Chairman
		Gill Clark	
		David Johnston	
	Officers	Nick Sherriff	Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader, St Albans District Council
		Sophie Barker	Countryside Ranger
		Ellie Beach	Projects Officer, Countryside Management Service
		J Warren	Clerk to Wheathampstead Parish Council
		Press	0
		Public	7

130-17 Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were made.

131-17 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Janet Churchard, Claudio Duran, Tessa Reason and Sandra Wood.

132-17 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Councillor Newton-Davies declared an interest as a member of the Woodland Trust and Councillor Johnston as a member of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

133-17 Minutes of the meeting of 13 July 2017

The Chairman proposed, and it was agreed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 be approved.

Resolved:

To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 to be a true and fair account and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

134-17 Endorsement of Committee Terms of Reference

It was reported that St Albans District council was in the process of reviewing all committee terms of reference, including joint committees. The existing Terms of Reference had been circulated. The revised terms would be brought to the Joint Committee once the review was complete.

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135-17 Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader report

The officer's report had been circulated. It was reported that signage improvement and byelaw revision would be carried out as part of the new Greenspace Action Plan. It was agreed that signage should be an early budget item.

An early cut of the summer meadow areas had resulted in less vigorous ragwort growth as fewer plants were able to seed so grasses competed better.

A boardwalk near the Wicked Lady would be included as part of the car park tender process to allow access over the ditch by Dyke Lane.

Winter work cutting back approximately 10 metres of scrub with additional clearance of the southern boundary hedge, and flailing of newly formed scrub areas, would allow more general access. A wider ride would be maintained onto the Common.

An unauthorised code of practice sign for model aircraft flying incorrectly bearing the Council logo had been removed.

136-17 Countryside Rangers' Report

The Countryside Ranger reported on her regular litter-picks and ragwort pull. Litter was particularly a problem between the climbing tree and the makeshift 'camp'. She further reported that she was leaving John O'Conner the next day, her replacement, Faye Tuffnell would take over within a few weeks.

Refugia mats had been sourced and positioned Hertfordshire Natural History Society with the aid of by the Chairman.

137-17 Countryside Management Service Project Officer Report

The consultation document for the Greenspace Action Plan was progressing. There was a suggestion to include the use of drones within the Plan. Signage featured within the GAP.

It was confirmed that West End Farm had been involved from early stages in the car park design consultation process. An application to redesign it had been sent to the Secretary of State. Comments on amendments to the car park design at West End Farm were accepted from representatives of the horse community including extension of the track in front of the access gate and inclusion of removable bollards or a barrier to access the Common. The design included drainage ditches either side of the car park and a geotextile membrane and permeable surface

138-17 Cricket Club Report

Wheathampstead Cricket Club's concerns were largely regarding rabbit damage. Rabbit culling continued, and some temporary fencing was used across the common to reduce their impact on vegetation through the summer.

The new cricket nets and screens were both smart and functional.

The club was delighted at the success particularly of the U10 team who, as county champions received a presentation from Alistair Cooke.

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139-17 User Group comments

Concerns were raised about a Flyers' Code of Conduct which purported to be official.

The Green Spaces and Cemeteries Team Leader confirmed that the Flyers should abide by the byelaws. Copies of the current Flyers' Code of Conduct will be sourced and displayed.

140-17 Date of next meeting

1 February 2018, 19:30 at the Memorial Hall.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21:05

Dated this day of 2018

Chairman