



**MINUTES OF THE COMMONS & HAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH MAY 2018
AT 7.30PM AT KEMPSEY YOUTH CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chair), Cllr Dodge, Cllr Michael, Cllr Varley, Cllr Ferguson and Cllr Geens

IN ATTENDANCE: - Sharon Baxter (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer) and four members of the Public.

1. Apologies: None
2. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None.
 3. Cllr Waller declared an ODI in respect of agenda items 8.as he has an easement on his property at Stonehall. He also declared that he owns a piece of land adjacent to the ditch at the North West end of Stonehall Common.

No questions for Public Question Time

3. The minutes of the Commons & Hams Committee of 19.03.18 having been previously circulated were signed as a true and correct record.
Matters arising from these minutes – To be discussed/updated under the relevant agenda items listed below.

4. Ashmoor Common

Cattle - The Clerk has received acknowledgement from Natural England of the grant payable for 2018/19. Ten Red Devon cattle at a cost of £655 per head have been purchased.

Aerial Photographs – No further progress to report. Cllr Waller to follow up.

Bird Survey – No bird survey was compiled but Mr Box reported that he had caught and ringed 2 X Stonechat, 3 X Snipe, 56 Linnets and a selection of common garden birds.

Mr Henderson who is a member of the British Trust of Ornithology intends to conduct this activity this year.

Meeting with Natural England – Clerk to chase request made to Rob Havard to request a meeting.

5. Kempsey Common

The rider friendly gate latch has been installed. A small modification was made for the latch to fit the gate.

Aerial Photographs – No further progress to report. Cllr Waller to follow up.

Filling in holes/ Bicycle Area – (Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the public to express their views on this matter). The general public consensus being that no digging should be allowed on the common in compliance with the byelaws. After discussion/expression of views Standing Orders were reimposed.

Action

CW

Clerk

CW

<p>RECOMMENDATION: To allow existing ramps constructed on Kempsey Common to be used by BMX enthusiasts/cyclists until the end of school holidays (September) and then seek to reinstate at the end of this period ensuring all holes are filled and to communicate to users that no further digging/construction be carried out, all litter is picked up and that people behave in a responsible manner.</p>	Action
<p>Cllr Varley to quantify the hole sizes and location to assist with them being filled in either by users or contractors.</p>	RV
<p>Cllr Varley and Cllr Ferguson to speak to the BMX enthusiasts /cyclists.</p>	RV/GF
<p>RECOMMENDATION: That Environment/Recreation Committee be tasked with finding a suitable location for BHX cycling activity</p>	
<p>6. Kerswell Green</p>	
<p>Tree surgery – Notices were posted asking residents if they are in agreement for the poplar trees to be removed. No objections had been received. Suggestions were made to replant trees. The Clerk will now liaise with the contractor to proceed with the work.</p>	Clerk
<p>Ditch works – A lorry had collapsed into the side of the ditch. The understanding being this was the responsibility of WCC. Clerk had referred this query to County Councillor Middlebrough to try to establish responsibility and request if the road can be stabilised, perhaps by having a brick headwall built. No response received as yet.</p>	PM
<p>Mr Allaway has confirmed he is happy to continue mowing Kerswell Green.</p>	
<p>7. Normoor Common</p>	
<p>Tree surgery – Quotes are to be obtained</p>	
<p>Mowing 2018 – Clerk to check with Mr Coole if he is happy to continue mowing the grass.</p>	Clerk
<p>Clerk to obtain quotes to ensure that the vegetation is cut back 1m on either side of the track to ensure clear access to Miss Moorhouse’s Cottage.</p>	Clerk
<p>It was reported that someone has sprayed weed killer along the path on Normoor that leads through the trees at the southern end killing all vegetation, not only the nettles. This will be inspected.</p>	
<p>8. Stonehall Common</p>	
<p>Telecoms cable – Branches from an Ash Tree are leaning on a telecom cable. Cllr Waller will try to progress with a telephone number located on the BT website.</p>	CW
<p>Dog Waste Bins – A request was made by two local residents to upgrade the size of their black waste bin to a larger size to accommodate the dog waste collected from the two dog waste bins they have kindly agreed to empty. Cllr Michael to pursue.</p>	JM
<p>Encroachment Issues There is some confusion regarding the boundary of the Inn at Stonehall. There are also concerns with fencing erected around this building, during renovation, encroaching onto common land, following a complaint regarding a parking incident. Cllr Waller will speak to the landowner to try to resolve.</p>	CW
<p>Cllr Waller asked if the Parish Council had ever paid for maintenance improvements of tracks over the commons. He was advised anyone wishing to improve these tracks must seek permission from the Parish Council before doing so.</p>	
<p>The Parish Council has issued a license in the past for one property for specific use across the common. Cllr Waller is seeking an amicable resolution as various infringements of this licence have been breached.</p>	CW
<p>The new gate has been installed and is locked with a combination lock.</p>	
<p>Northern Drainage Ditch The location of the drain from the common to the road drain to be determined in the first instance, When the land has dried out. This is ongoing.</p>	

Sheep Bridges -No progress	Action
Bridleways Cllr Waller had attended a meeting with Mr Turvey from Norton juxta Kempsey Parish Council to widen the bridleway on the east side of Stonehall Common to Wadborough Road. Mr Turvey was keen on this idea as Norton juxta Kempsey Parish Council own this land. This removes potential landowner issues. The option discussed related to the north side of the bridleway using the field to widen. A precedent has been set in Littleworth with positive results and without legal implications.	Clerk
Mowing 2018 Clerk to check Mr Coole is happy to pursue.	
9. Lower Ham – Plan of Action – No progress to report.	JM
10. Allotments – Cllr Michael is making enquiries with the landowner to try and acquire some allotments in Kempsey.	CW
11. Pollinator Action Plan volunteer recruitment Cllr Waller had devised an advert seeking volunteers to help develop and implements a pollinator Action Plan for Kempsey. This advert will be placed on the Parish noticeboards. Clerk to liaise with County Councillor Middlebrough to locate and request a copy of the Verge Maintenance Policy. Cllr Waller will promote this item at the Annual Parish Meeting and will devise some FAQ's.	CW
12. Fences and Gates - Annual Audit progress Mr Watkinson has been provided with a GPS reader to indicate the latitude and longitude on the checklist form. Cllr Waller to advise the clerk if any further modifications to the form are required.	CW
13. Rights of way and easement policy A first draft of the revised easement policy has been produced. This is intended as a starting point to discuss some of the important issues to be addressed. Discussions included land agent fees referring to both commercial and residential applicants, procedural issues and whether to appoint a specialist solicitor. Cllr Waller requested feedback from Councillors in order to refer the draft document to a solicitor. In the first instance he will pass the document to Cllr Michael who agreed to ask Malvern Hills Trust for some legal advice.	CW/ALL JM
14. Any Other Business Cllr Geens reported that the white marker gates have been installed at Kerswell Green as a traffic calming measure.	

Meeting Closed 9.00 pm

Signed Chairman..... Date