



**MINUTES OF THE COMMONS & HAMS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30PM  
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** - Cllr Waller, Cllr Michael, Cllr Pugh and Cllr Geens.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** - Two members of the public present.

1. Apologies: Cllr Ferguson (Business).

2. Declaration of Interests:

1. Register of Interests: Councillors' were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) – None
3. Other Disclosable Interests (ODI) –None

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes

**Action**

3. Minutes: To consider the adoption of the minutes of Commons & Hams Committee of 21.07.16 having been previously circulated these were signed as a true and correct record.

4. Ashmoor Common

4.1 Management Plan – review and status.

There had been a site visit to the common. The intensive grazing had a minimal impact on the soft rushes. A letter had been sent to Rob Havard at Natural England asking to meet him in October to discuss the management plan. Provision of a water hole has not progressed but is probably not now needed for 2016. Need to check if Mr. Gove has carried out topping. An area of ragwort has been cleared by hand and we await to see if this diminishes the ragwort population next year.

Cllr Pugh

4.2 Sale of Cattle and TB testing

It was agreed to seek authority at the next council meeting to get the cattle TB tested and sell them.

Cllr Waller

4.3 Ashmoor Common – Chris Gove Contract

The contract with Chris Gove had been revised and it was agreed that Cllr Waller would approach Mr Gove with the new contract and get his reaction. If Mr Gove is agreeable then it can go to the next council meeting.

Cllr Waller

Cllr Waller has contacted Western Power distribution and left KPC's contact details for a response about the repair needed to the poles.

Cllr Pugh to ask organize repairs to the corral and also the post by Farmers Arms as well as cutting back of the brambles (those along the sides and amongst rushes). Cllr Pugh will check to see whether Mr Gove is able to do the work or will seek another contractor – Natural England funding is available for the work. Marker poles need to be identified before work on brambles commences.

Cllr Pugh

5. Update on issue of horses on Kempsey Common

This item was covered in public question time. It was agreed that Cllr Waller will approach his contact about drafting a code of practice. A discussion was had on length of time this might take and costings – between one and two days and up to £200 was agreed by the committee to be considered appropriate.

Cllr Waller

## 6. Update on maintenance work on the Commons

### 6.1 Review of quotes for Stonehall Commons works

Five contractors had been contacted about work needed. Only one quote had been received. The Committee felt it was hard to make a judgement on one quote and therefore the Parish Office would go back to the other four contractors asking for a quote and a suggestion also came from a member of the public as to another contractor who could do the work. The quotes would be needed by Monday to go to the next council meeting. It was agreed that any quotes received would be taken forward to the next Council meeting.

Parish Office

### 6.2 Outstanding works on other Commons

No further proposal has been received on the track from the Farmers Arms across Kempsey Common to the caravan site. Cllr Pugh has contacted Worcestershire CC about the gate at the Marlbank. He had also reported a broken stile. Cllr Michael will write to County Cllr Roger Sutton concerning both matters.

Cllr Michael

It was agreed that the contractor doing the rough cutting at Kerswell Green would be paid £50 for the work and then £60 for his usual work.

### 6.3 Worcestershire Pollinator Conference

For information - To be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at the Hive in Worcester.

## 7. Preferred Contractor Process

It was agreed that a list of contractors and work needed would be agreed as one list at the start of the year. It was agreed that this would be capped at £500 and any work exceeding that budget would still need three quotes. This would be raised at F&GP.

Cllr Geens

## 8. Application to fly drones on Common lands

There had been interest from two members of the public about flying drones on the Commons. A possible *quid pro quo* arrangement for permission to fly recreational drones in exchange for survey aerial photos of the Commons which would help with management of vegetation, grazing etc has been explored with the applicants. A demonstration of the drones had been rescheduled and would be on 8<sup>th</sup> October. It was agreed that managing the use of drones would be much easier if KPC licenced a club and then the club would manage its members. It was agreed that to avoid individuals flying drones that notices on noticeboards and in the parish magazine would state that it was only permitted via the club. Designation of an area where the drones could be used would be discussed with the club. This could be on a trial basis.

Cllr Waller

## 9. Allotments

KPC had recently been approached by a parishioner about allotments – of which the council has none currently. It was agreed to ask the council to approve the Committee to carry out a needs survey for allotments. It was agreed to look to co-opt interested parties to help with carrying out the needs assessment.

Cllr Waller

## 10. Easement – Planning Application Malvern Hills 16/00921

Plan deferred from KPC planning committee – the matter is as to whether there is a requirement for an easement for a second access to the property. It was agreed that Cllrs Pugh and Waller would speak with the owner about what easements are currently in place (if any) and if further easements will be required. Cllr Pugh to set up the meeting.

Cllr Pugh

## 11. Budget and Expenditure 2016-2017

Cllr Waller presented a balance sheet for the Committee to review. Cllr Geens had enquired as to where KPC had received the Natural England grant – he was awaiting an answer. From the review of what has been spend and is likely to be spend (including the ringfenced budget for Ashmoor Common) - £3305 remains. The issue of the bramble and gorse cutting at Stonehall was raised as this needs to be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 – some of the remaining money could be spent on this. It was agreed that a call for quotes would be issued to cut the bramble and gorse at Stonehall Common.

Cllr Waller

12. Open Spaces Society

No progress. Did not renew membership due to lack of response to emails. Cllr Waller to contact Open Spaces HQ.

Cllr Waller

13. Any Other Business

Cllr Michael raised the issue of the state of the Lower Ham. Currently in poor repair and the owner is trying to sell it. It was decided that Cllr Waller would find out how much it would cost to put it back to reasonable use as a hay meadow and to see if any grants are available to assist.

Meeting Closed 9.30 pm  
Hazel Robinson  
Clerk of the Meeting

Signed ..... Chairman..... Date

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***Standing Orders were adjourned for Public Question Time***

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The issue of supplementary feeding affecting the behaviour of the horses/ponies on Kempsey Common was raised by Mr William Halford.

A letter had been sent to commoners with grazing rights asking whether they had horses on the common, if they intended to continue and for a copy of the horse's passports. Five had responded. Only 2 had horses on the common – 1 refused to let the council see the horse's passport & the other was undecided. A discussion was had on how best to manage this issue and a way forward proposed was to have a code of practice for those with leasing rights. All leasing rights expire in April 2017. Cllr Waller has an appropriate contact who is a horse expert he can ask to draft the document.