



**MINUTES OF THE COMMONS & HAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 15TH APRIL 2016 AT 10.30AM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chair), Cllr Bevan, Cllr Michael, Cllr Pugh, Cllr Bannister and Cllr Geens

IN ATTENDANCE: - 5 Members of the Public.

1. Apologies: Cllr Bevan (Personal) - Accepted
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

3. Minutes: The minutes of Commons & Hams Committee meeting of 03.11.15 and 21.01.16 are to be presented for approval at a further meeting to be arranged for Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.00 pm.

Action

Clerk

4. Update on review of byelaws to regulate the grazing of horses on Parish Commons

1. Further to the meeting between Cllrs. Michael, Patrick and Waller and Democratic Services at Malvern Hills DC on 27 January 2016, Cllr Michael has today received advice by email setting out MHDC's position on this matter, which he has circulated to the Committee. The advice makes reference, amongst other points, to the collection of evidence and to the involvement of Trading Standards. As the matters referred to have wider implications, Cllr Waller proposed that clarification was requested on the form of evidence to be obtained and that the advice received should be discussed at full Council

Cllr Michael

Clerk

RESOLVED: -To refer the advice from MHDC to the Parish Council for discussion at the next Council meeting.

5. Update on gorse control on Kempsey and Stonehall Commons.

Stumpcutters have carried out gorse control on Kempsey Common to a very satisfactory standard. Due to budget restrictions gorse control was not carried out on Stonehall Common in 2015/16. It is hoped this will be completed within 2016/17 budget.

6. Update on verge maintenance on Stonehall Common

Monies were carried over from 2015/16 financial year. Retender to get work done.

Clerk

7. Update on maintenance work on Normoor Common and tarmac laying and access issues.

Maintenance work on Normoor Common has been carried out satisfactory. The ground is to be levelled – waiting for weather conditions to improve.

Clerk

Tarmac Issues – **RESOLVED:**- A letter to be issued to Mr Freeman of Chandlers Cottage stating The Parish Council has reviewed this matter and confirms although it does not want to set a precedent, this situation was totally innocent and no further action will be taken.

Cllr Waller/
Bevan

Access Issues – Contractors need to be reminded to keep the padlock closed on the access gate to Normoor Common at all times. Clerk to write to Croome Estate and Mr Watkins to remind them of this situation.

Cllr Pugh
Cllr Waller

Cllr Waller to liaise with Cllr Bevan concerning proposed wording and costs to place a new sign on the gate to this effect.

- 8. Update on maintenance work on Kerswell Green.
Cllr Pugh is seeking specialist advice from Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust to remove the weeds from the pond to maintain the depth. Some small trees also need to be cut to help prevent the pond from draining.

- 9. Grazing plan, cattle purchase, ragwort control and fencing issues on Ashmoor Common
Grazing Plan on Ashmoor Common
A meeting has been arranged on 25.04.16 with Rob Harvard a grazing expert from Natural England. Cattle purchase is in abeyance until advice from Mr Harvard has been obtained.

Ragwort Control – No replies from Professor Hobkirk regarding the rare plant species. Item to be discussed on 25.04.16 at the meeting with Mr Harvard as part of the overall management plan.

Fencing Issues on Ashmoor Common – Contact The Estates Manager, Pippa Webster from Croome Estate for an update on the fencing issues/repairs on Ashmoor Common.

A fallen tree located at the southern end of Ashmoor Common needs to be cleared once the weather conditions improve.

- 10. Kempsey Common Caravan Park access track - situation update – No progress to report.

- 11. Minor repairs - work outstanding
Cllr Bannister reported one byelaw sign and one emergency access sign needs to be erected on Ashmoor Common.

- 12. Drainage and ditch system review – A site visit is to be arranged in May to understand the drainage and ditch system.

- 13. Budget and expenditure 2016-17 – Circulated for Information.

- 14. Any Other Business
Final meeting Sunday 17th May 2016 to discuss the beacon.
Cllr Waller reported a request had been received to place a dog waste bin on Stonehall Common. The situation needs to be discussed more thoroughly with local residents and a plan formulated.
Clerk reported Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Agreement for 2016/17 had been completed and returned.

Cllr Waller

Cllr Waller

Cllr Pugh

Cllr Bannister

Cllr Waller

Clerk

Meeting Closed 1.30 pm
Sharon Baxter
Clerk

Signed Chairman..... Date

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Waller requested all comments on horses following a recent response from MHDC

Sally-Ann Collins – Stonehall Common

Confirmed horses are congregating at the entrance gate at Green Street (by Worthington's)

Nancy Morris – Kempsey Common

Commented on the job well done with gorse clearance on Kempsey Common

Bob Bowley – Kerswell Green

Mr Coole normally cuts the grass on Normoor Common. Cllr Bannister to liaise with Mr Coole to check if the surface is suitable to be cut?

Standing Orders were reimposed