



**MINUTES OF THE COMMONS & HAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
 HELD ON MONDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30PM
 AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: - 5 Members of the Public.

1. Apologies: None
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) – Cllr Waller declared an ODI in respect of agenda item 9. possessing an easement over Stonehall Common.

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

	Action
3. Having been previously circulated the minutes of the Commons & Hams Committee of 03.10.16 and 21.11.16 were signed as a true and correct record.	
4. 2016-17 budget - unspent funds – Discussions took place how remaining funds of could be used. RECOMMENDATION: To use unspent monies from the Commons & Hams Budget for 2016/17 on deepening the anti-trespass ditches on Stonehall common and to carry forward to financial year 17/18 if work is not complete in this financial year. Cllr Michael agreed to devise specifications for the work required, for the Clerk to obtain quotes. Cllr Waller suggested two specifications should be devised:- <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To deepen the ditch where brambles were removed 2. To deepen the ditch all along Stonehall Common. Mr Morris kindly offered to give advice regarding arranging the deepening of the ditches on Stonehall Common.	Clerk JM/ Clerk
5. Ashmoor Common <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management Plan - meeting with Natural England. Clerk to contact Natural England to arrange an urgent meeting with Rob Havard to discuss a Management Plan and receive guidance on how to progress. 2. Electricity poles, fencing and the fallen tree The leaning electricity poles have been referred to Western Power Distribution to assess safety. The fencing forms part of the discussion to have with Natural England. Cllr Waller to write to Croome Estate concerning the fallen tree. Other Issues:- RESOLVED: To acknowledge email received from Mr Box Re: Bird Ringing- Ashmoor Common. The Committee agreed in principle but he should be warned of the dangers involved. A request should also be made for a copy of his licence and insurance certificates.	Clerk CW Clerk
6. Update on issue of horses on Kempsey Common. Cllr Waller to chase up the Code of Practice. It is anticipated this document will be sent to all parishioners with grazing rights. Cllr Waller suggested the Commons Right Leasing Agreement Form needed modifying.	CW CW

	Action
7. Update on maintenance works on Commons	
1. Gorse clearance – Due to the cost implications no further action will be taken this financial year.	
2. Outstanding works on Kerswell Green RESOLVED: To engage ProTree contractors to clear the brambles/rubbish from the full length of the ditch for £250.	DP
A request had been received from Paul Green land Drainage Inspector from MHDC concerning a blocked culvert located at Kerswell Green. Clerk to confirm the following:	Clerk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water is still flowing • The ditch will be cleared nearby • Will report back once the work is complete. 	DP
RESOLVED: Pro Tree to clear the boundary pond from debris and rubbish at a cost of £120.00	
A complaint had been received from Mrs Bishop concerning the state of the blocked ditch This has been reported to Teal Turf who should clear it. This matter should now be referred to the Environment Committee.	Clerk
3. Kempsey Common fencing Cllr Michael reported that some of the fencing posts around the allotments need replacing. Clerk to check the Leasing Agreements to establish responsibility. Cllr Michael to check the allotment fencing and update accordingly.	Clerk JM
4. Gates and locks Clerk to chase the repairs to the faulty gate on the faulty gate on Kempsey Common which were previously reported (Report ref: 191294)	Clerk
5. Normoor Common trees – A site visit is required. This item is budgeted in next Financial Year. To discuss at the next Commons & Hams Committee meeting.	
8. Application to fly drones on Common lands. Cllr Waller to draft a letter advising the drone enthusiasts that opposition from local residents is very strong and therefore this request cannot be progressed. Alternate site locations, not owned by the Parish Council, to be made to assist with this enquiry.	CW/ Clerk
9. Easement issues Following an approval of a recent planning application Cllrs Pugh and Waller to visit the landowner of 'The Cottage' Kerswell Green to discuss an easement. Door bars have requested a meeting to discuss vehicular access across Kempsey Common to the Caravan Park, Bestmans Lane. The Parish Council has no policy on easements. Cllr Michael to seek advice from District Council regarding easements.	CW/DP JM
10. Future of the Commons Reference is made in the NDP to the Commons and Open Green Spaces. Cllr Waller is keen to obtain views from organisations to increase the bio diversity with a view to improving the Commons. He will contact Worcestershire Wildlife Trust (WWT). Cllr Pugh agreed to compile a contact list of other organisations who perhaps could offer their expertise on this matter.	CW DP
11. Any Other Business The access track leading to Miss Moorhouse's Cottage on Normoor Common is to be diarised to be cut in July each year. The contractor is to be alerted in late spring that this requires attention.	Clerk

Meeting Closed 8.50 pm
Sharon Baxter
Clerk

Signed Chairman..... Date

(Standing orders were adjourned)

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Waller confirmed a response had been submitted to Mr & Mrs Allen in respect of flying drones. The Committee recognises that there is considerable opposition to use Kempsey Common for this purpose and having discussed the matter, have decided not to make any recommendation to the Parish Council to allow the flying of drones on Kempsey Common, for recreation purposes.

The occasional use of survey drones is still under consideration but is not a priority at this time. Any aerial work is likely to be on Ashmoor Common.

David Morris requested if the Committee would consider using unspent monies from 2016/17 budget to:-

- Deepen the anti-trespass ditches on Stonehall Common to prevent access from Travellers.
- Replace the roadside wooden post with a metal post on the bridleway on Stonehall Common

(Standing Orders were reimposed)