

MINUTES OF THE COMMONS AND HAMS COMMITTEE MEETING
OF KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2012 AT 7.30 p.m.
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: - Mr. R Bowley (in the Chair)

Mrs. C. Campbell; Mr. J Michael; Mr. D.Harrison, Mr. M Legg, Mr. A Rea

1. Apologies for Absence – Mr Austin (accepted)

2. Declaration of Interest – Personal & Prejudicial

As someone holding registered grazing rights in respect of all commonable areas other than Kerswell Green Common, Mr. Harrison declared a personal interest in respect of the Commons and Hams Committee. Mr. Bowley also declared an interest being a member of Kerswell Green Graziers Association.

3. Open Forum – None

4. Minutes: To consider the adoption of the following minutes

- Commons & Hams Committee of 31st October 2011

Having been previously circulated these minutes were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

5. Report from each Common/Ham Co-coordinator

The Hams – Mrs. Campbell advised there was nothing to report.

Upper Ham – Mr. Michael advised he has received a complaint concerning clay pigeon shooting in that a horse rider had sustained an injury. He offered advice to report to the police.

Kempsey Common – Mr. Legg discovered that thirteen trees had been felled by Croome Estate. Clarification via the solicitors is being sought to confirm the boundary. A broken stile was reported by Linden House. The Countryside Services Department confirm that a stile is unauthorised and access to the field should be via a gate which should not be locked which is the present situation.

Normoor Common – Ditching works to be completed by the end of January 2012.

It was highlighted that the field (east side of Normoor Common) is at present being used to graze sheep however there is no gate to prevent them from roaming. Mr. Harrison to speak to Mr. Watkins to address this matter. There may well be an electric fence present.

Kerswell Green – Nothing to report. The construction company acting for Severn Trent is carrying out an inspection to the drains on the South East boundary adjacent to the new sewage plant.

Ashmoor Common – Works to the corral are due to commence end of January. It is anticipated works will take 2-3 days. Clerk to chase completion of works by Mr. Kinahan of some small areas to be topped (already agreed with him) in order to release payment.

6. Long Term Development Plans for each Common

Mr. Bowley asked for any thoughts/ideas in respect of long term development for each common. Mr. Legg suggested to coppice timber or sell/donate timber in respect of Normoor Common. Mr. Rea suggested the eradication of gorse growth, reinstate culverts and increase the amount of grazing on Kempsey Common. He also suggested the installation of an animal water trough and a tree/boundary survey.

Mr. Michael would like to restore the ponds on Stonehall Common advising the Worcestershire Countryside Commission and The Duckworth Trust could possibly get involved.

Mr. Harrison asked if there was an opportunity to claim monies from the Rural Payments Agency to assist with some of these projects. Mr. Bowley confirmed a request had been made and was awaiting a response.

Mr. Bowley suggested the Chairman incorporates in his next report an article to encourage graziers to use Ashmoor Common.

Mr. Legg to try and secure an agreement in respect of the hay on all commons apart from Ashmoor Common.

7. Tackling Japanese Knotweed, Ragwort and Himalayan Balsam

Mr. Michael happy to lead a group to remove the ragwort on all but Ashmoor Common, in the Summer. The Japanese Knotweed on Normoor Common and the Himalayan Balsam located at the Rocky to be tackled in due course.

8. Budget Outcome 2012/13

Mr. Legg requested if any unspent monies from this year's budget 2011/12 could be used to start a management programme by removing dead trees on Normoor Common due to the wet ground conditions and then replanting with new ones.

Mr. Rea believed we need to act prudently and save money as this was not a necessity.

Mr. Michael thought it might be wiser to spend money on some ditching work to prevent the ground from getting so water logged.

Mr. Harrison advised that he felt the Parish Council should clear the section of the ditch they own (On Normoor Common) and that Teal Turf should be responsible for their own. A letter is to be issued to Teal Turf to request that they clear their ditch.

Mr. Harrison referred to monies remaining from the last two years budgets in which he felt adequate funds were available to carry out ditching works and therefore no further permission was required.

Mr. Legg made a proposal to use any unspent monies (if available) from 2011/12 budget for the purposes of re-establishing ditches and associated works at Normoor Common. This was seconded by Mr. Harrison with four members voting in favour to accept and two members voting against. The motion was carried and a recommendation will be placed on the February Parish Council agenda.

It was suggested routine maintenance works be carried out on Kempsey Common to reduce size of the gorse islands.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.13p.m.

Mrs. S Baxter
Clerk
17th January 2012

