

**MINUTES OF THE COMMONS AND HAMS COMMITTEE MEETING OF
KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 15th OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.45 p.m.
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Bannister (in the Chair), Cllr Campbell; Cllr Austin, Cllr Martin and Cllr Rea.

1. Apologies for Absence – None

2. Declaration of Interest 1. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests 2. Other Disclosable Interests
Cllr Martin declared an Other Disclosable Interest as he holds common rights to Ashmoor Common and Kempsey Common and his son has been awarded the contract to restore the pond at Stonehall Common.

3. The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time – notes are appended to these minutes.

4. The minutes of the meeting on 2nd July 2012 having been previously circulated were signed as a true and correct record.

5. Cllr Bannister confirmed the budget for the Commons & Hams for 2012/13 was £8950 of which £816.12 had to been spent to date. He confirmed works were required to Ashmoor Common (to include Scrub, Topping & Ditch work) and Kempsey Common (to include Gorse/Scrub clearance). He confirmed works on Normoor Common had been completed and the topping on Stonehall Common had been attended to free of charge and monies were being used for the pond restoration.

6. Normoor Common – Following the removal of The Travellers Normoor Common has been made tidy. Teal Turf has offered to remove the bricks.

7. Kerswell Green Common It was identified that some ditching works were required. Quotes are being obtained. Also some gully repairs were required.
(The meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Bowley to update on this situation)
Mr Bowley confirmed there were three culverts on Kerswell Green Common. No work was required to the ones that were the responsibility of the Parish Council. The culvert requiring attention was the responsibility of Worcestershire County Council.

8. Stonehall Common – It was identified that further grass cutting was required, however the ground was too wet. Cllr Austin to obtain quotes. Works are to commence on 18th October 2012 for the pond restoration project.
9. Kempsey Common - Cllr Rea to make enquiries and obtain quotes for removing the gorse. Quotes are in the process of being obtained for topping of the thistles.
10. The request from Mr Harrison for thistle cutting and Gorse clearance on Kempsey Common together with a map was circulated to all Committee members. This item is being addressed as stated in item 9.
11. Ashmoor Common - (The meeting was adjourned to allow Mr Bowley to update)
Mr Bowley reported that Ashmoor Common had been topped last year but unfortunately this had not been the case this year due to poor weather conditions. If we are to remove in bail form a tractor will be required due to the quantity. Natural England has concerns with the preservation of the surface and if heavy mechanical equipment is used the ground will be destroyed. A logical way to try and resolve the problem would be to use more livestock. The situation is trying to be resolved.
A further problem concerns ditching, primarily to the main ditch located to the west side of Croome Estate which poses problems due to fencing issues. Despite trying to obtain quotes for ditching works this has been unsuccessful.
12. The Hams – Cllr Bannister to request written confirmation from The Countryside Access Officer to confirm who is responsible for the gates and stiles.
13. Compile task list for the above work requirements – Identified as above.
14. Commons and Hams budget for 2013/2014 – To compile a wants and needs list when considering the budget and expenditure for 2013/14

Meeting Closed 8.37pm

Sharon Baxter

Clerk

Public Question Time

Mr Ellis circulated photographs of how the ponds at Stonehall Common use to look. Cllr Martin confirmed works are due to commence on the 18th October 2012. Mr Ellis requested if the grass surrounding the second pond could be cut, and if so, the residents would be happy to help reinstate. Cllr Bannister confirmed there were no further plans this year to carry out further works to the ponds.

Cllr Bannister confirmed ditch work is due to be carried out to Kerswell Green Common. Some confusion arose as to whether permission is required from the Secretary of State for reinstatement of ditches. Cllr Bannister to make enquiries.

Mr Harrison referred to item 10 on the agenda to request thistle clearance and gorse clearance on Kempsey Common as an interested party due to owning the caravan park. He addressed concerns that there potentially could be a fire hazard as there was no break in the gorse. He offered some advice of how this use to be cut and taken away, and requested if we could consider this due to sufficient funds available in the budget.

Mr Legg presented a brief update concerning The Travellers. He suggested the Parish Council access the liability and seek compensation to help cover solicitor's fees from Mr Watkins.

Mr Harrison advised there was no lock on the Lower Ham (Pixham Ferry Lane). Cllr Bannister to make enquiries to establish who is responsible.