

Commons & Hams Committee Meeting

Friday, 2nd March, 2012 – 7:30 pm

Room 1, Kempsey Community Centre, Main Road, Kempsey

Attendance: Robin Austin
Bob Bowley (Chairman)
Claire Campbell
David Harrison
Mike Legg
Adam Rea

Apologies: John Michael

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies received John Michael

2. **Declaration Of Interest**

Cllr Harrison declared interests in all commonable areas except Kerswell Green. Cllr Bowley declared an interest in Kerswell Green Common.

3. **Open Forum**

No members of the public or Councilors chose to speak during the open forum.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16th January 2012, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record of proceedings.

5. **Commons Topping**

Offer from Mr Allaway, a resident of Kerswell Green, to top Kerswell Green Common without charge using his own tractor cutter. The committee recommended the offer be place before the Parish Council with the recommendation of acceptance; however, the committee recommended the Parish Council seeks evidence of liability insurance.

6. **Remaining Funds 2011/12**

The committee resolved to seek advice from Calc with regard to budget surplus calculation.

7. **Update From Each Common Coordinator**

Kerswell Green

Committee recommended that a letter be sent to Mr Butlin with regard to the concrete blocks at Kerswell Green, asking for their removal. Chairman to draft letter.

Noormoor

Verge clearance and protected ditching have been completed. The Committee recommended the purchase of a lock. The Committee noted that the culvert had collapsed by Croft Cottage and recommended this item be brought before the Parish Council with associated costs. Specification to include robust headwalls. The committee recommended an Agenda item be added to the Parish Council meeting of March 2012 with regard to the felling of tree by power line.

StoneHall

Council Austin to follow up suggestion of a grant availability for Stone Hall Common pond project

Kempsey

Cllr Bowley met with Pippa Webster who provided a map of the boundary of Kempsey Common and the Croome Estate. Committee resolved a letter be sent to Pippa Webster confirming the agreed boundary. Chairman to draft letter. Cllr Legg had been passed a book with details of a circular walk which referenced a stile at footpath 637 boarding Kempsey Common and Allotments. The committee commented that the existence or absence of a stile did not alter the right of way as defined by the definitive map.

Ashmoor

Additional stock has been placed on Ashmoor Common in an attempt to reduce the growth of gorse. The committee recommended a letter of appreciation be sent to Teal Turf with regard to the erected stile. Chairman to draft letter. The committee was briefed that the Corral extension is awaiting inspection by Natural England.

8. Progress On Commons Development Plans

Development plans are in progress and may, where necessary, require dialogue with parishioners and external agencies.

9. Eradication Of Himalayan Balsam and Japanese Knotweed

The committee recommends a written quote be presented to the Parish Clerk.

10. Letter To Residents Adjacent To Commons

The committee recommended legal input be sought with regard to the form and function of the letter. Cllr Harrison abstained from the recommendation.

11. Replacement of Missing/Damaged Bylaw Signs on commons

The committee recommended that an investigation be undertaken into the required information and its display, and that brief summary and full byelaws should, if not already, be available at the Parish Office for reference.

12. Co-ordination of Action/Information Relating

Resolved that any committee member receiving information with regard to commonable areas should seek to update the appropriate commons coordinator.

13. Correspondence

Committee resolved that the Evershedd LLP Letters of 21st December 2011 & 20th February 2012 be brought before the Parish Council for deliberation.

Chairman expressed concerns with regard to the contract of work on Normoor Common as it did not explicitly refer to the appropriate specification.

The meeting concluded at 21:02

Taken by Adam Rea