

Minutes of a Meeting of Ilkeshall St Andrew and St John Land Management Company Ltd. at St John's Hall 12th October 2020 at 7 p.m.

Present: Tim Basey-Fisher (T B-F) (Chairman)
John Bedwell (JB) (Secretary)
Rod Apps (RA)
Gerald Godfrey (GG)
Roo Lee (RL)
Chris Roberts (CR)

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everybody.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 22nd June 2020

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 22nd June 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matter Arising not elsewhere covered in the Agenda

3.1 There were no matters arising not elsewhere covered in the Agenda.

4. Finance

4.1 The current financial position showed total funds of £67064.46. Since the last Board meeting interest on the HTB No. 1 Bond and the Santander Deposit Account had been received. There had been payments to:

a) CR, Simon Topham etc. (£455.74) b) Birketts, Legal Expenses (£612), c) Juliet Hawkins, Pond Survey (£467.04)

4.2 Cheques were signed for:

a) CR, Simon Topham etc. (£577.48)

b) JB, TiaGrace website management and Harrison Tree Services, tree surgery at Beck's Green (£350)

5. Implementation of the Management Plan (MP)

5.1 Section 1.1 states that the LMC 'intends to consult widely with its stakeholders'. To this end, RA produced a list of questions that he thought could be included in a questionnaire that would be sent to all residents. Board members were asked to circulate their comments on his note. **Action: ALL**

5.2 Section 1.2 states that the LMC 'will seek to establish more precisely the boundaries of all the Commons etc.'. To this end CR has obtained the details of Land Registry titles of all properties abutting the commons. He and RA will commence to write to these properties asking if they agree with the boundaries shown in their particular title, once this issue has been publicised in a newsletter. **Action: RA, CR**

5.3 There was a discussion about dog fouling of the commons. It was agreed that RA would identify a source of anti-fouling roundels that could be placed on vehicular and pedestrian accesses. **Action: RA**

5.4 The Commoners' Association is to be asked if all Commoners are prepared to agree to an extension to HLS next year. T B-F will contact Kim Pearce to see if there are any changes to the rules of HLS. **Action: GG, T B-F**

5.5 Spraying of thistles on Great Common, (section 2.3), may need to be carried out again next year.

5.6 The results from the pond survey, carried out on 15th June, will be posted on the website. By and large the survey demonstrated that the pond management that is being carried out is resulting in healthy ponds.

5.7 The harrowing trial was not a success. The thatch proved to be so thick that little could be teased out without tearing the grass up.

5.8 Nothing was done to deal with the Ragwort problem in ditches and verges due to a lack of resources. It may be possible next year to employ people to carry out the necessary pulling.

5.9 Ditch restoration is planned for Great Common Lane, Tooks Common Lane and The Mardle. **Action: CR**

5.10 RA will produce a revised version of the MP which will include a section on the maintenance of ditches as required by HLS. **Action: RA**

1 Signed 

Date... 11/01/2021

6. LMC Website and LMC Promotion

- 6.1 CR has yet to contact the local newspaper but whenever something has been posted on the website he has publicised this via the Neighbourhood social media. RL reported that she often links Facebook to the website.
- 6.2 Excellent drone footage of the commons provided by Richard Hall has been included in the gallery.
- 6.3 RL reported on website traffic. There had been 150 individual accesses of the website during June, 50 during September. The majority (92%) had been direct accesses whilst the remainder had been by indirect routes.

7. Review of Work Program

- 7.1 Since the last meeting there has been regular cutting of the pathways, a pond survey, completion of the hay cut, necessary strimming, work on the wetland etc., all of which is detailed on the website under 'Works Completed'.
- 7.2 Over the winter months it is planned that sallows and saplings in ditches will be controlled, oak benches will be installed and tidying of overhanging stuff on Beck's Green.
- 7.3 It was agreed that a pond survey would be carried out every three years to identify any potential problems.

8. Haymaking 2020

- 8.1 The annual hay cut was completed on 21st July with Blacksmiths Common cut and baled. Unsurprisingly, given the dry weather, yields were well down on previous years.

9. Reserved Business

- 9.1 There were several items of reserved business.

10. Any Other Business

- 10.1 CR has arranged for the postcard publicising the website plus the commons walks pamphlet to be included in the Welcome Pack for newcomers to the village. Additional postcards will be distributed to all residents via the Village newsletter.
- 10.2 RA will produce an LMC flyer to be sent out with the Village Newsletter. Topics to be covered will include commons boundaries, the questionnaire, warning on unauthorised works, update of work carried out, dog fouling, the postcard and a reminder that the AGM will be in February.
- 10.3 There had been three cordwood deliveries, it is proposed that the cost of cordwood is increased by £5 per load. Action: RA
- 10.4 A post had been replaced at the bottom of Great Common.
- 10.5 The number of bird recorders has dwindled so it was agreed that the Bird Survey should end after ten years with December's results.
- 10.6 The licence enabling the LMC to burn in an open space has been extended until 24th August 2023.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

- 11.1 The date of the next Board meeting will be on Monday 11th January 2021 at 7pm.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.40 hours.

J Bedwell
18th October 2020

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Signed



Date

11/01/2021