

Minutes of a Meeting of Ilketshall St Andrew and St John Land Management Company Ltd. Via Zoom on 30th November 2021 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 12th July 2021

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 12th July 2021 were corrected. Item 5.2 should have read 'RA and GG will walk the remaining commons and report back so that the Board can decide the way forward'.
With this proviso, the minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matter Arising not elsewhere covered in the Agenda

3.1 Item 9.3, the front of English Cottage pond had been trimmed. Juliet Hawkins was contacted with regard to trimming the fronts of the ponds. The salient point of a lengthy reply was that it is important to trim the fronts of the ponds occasionally to keep them open. The LMC practice of trimming a few times a year was considered to be in line with this advice.

3.2 Item 9.2, the Commoner representatives of the Board asked CR to prepare a note outlining his versions of events which could then be read out at the Commoner's Association meeting on 27th July and thereby be included in the minutes. This he did, so it was unfortunate that the note was not read out meaning that all the commoners had received Ms Zeitlin's version of events but not CR's.

4. Finance

4.1 The current financial position showed total funds of £68394.54. Since the last Board meeting there had been a receipt of the interest on Bond No. 1 (£422.24) and there had been no payments. The accounts will now be sent to Lovewell Blake for the preparation of the draft accounts. **Action: JB**

4.2 Updated details of the Fixed Rate Bonds had previously been circulated.

4.3 It was agreed to increase the price of cordwood to £35 with volunteers paying £25. It was further agreed that the mileage allowance on LMC business should be 40p/mile but anyone intending to use their vehicle were encouraged to check that their insurance was valid for such purposes.

5. Implementation of the Management Plan (MP)

5.1 It is not known if an extension to the ELS/HLS agreement will be offered. T B-F will contact Kim Pearce and report back. **Action: T B-F**

5.2 Gapping up on Great Common is ready to go ahead once the materials are available. **Action: CR**

6. LMC Website and LMC Promotion

6.1 Details of work scheduled and work completed is being updated without any problems.

6.2 It was agreed to ask the Commoner's Association if they wanted their minutes to be stored and available through the website. **Action: T B-F**

1 Signed Tim Basey-Fisher

Date 04/01/2022

7. Review of Work Program since last meeting and Future Work Program

- 7.1 Brian Andrews (BA) cut the permissive paths 6 times during the summer and Adrian Sampson cut The Mardle 3 times.
- 7.2 Fallen trees at Mill Common and Blacksmith's have been cleared by volunteer labour and the resultant cordwood sold to 3 customers.
- 7.3 Areas for gapping up have been flailed in readiness for the planting of whips.
- 7.4 Simon Topham strimmed the fronts of ponds as recommended by Juliet Hawkins, and he also carried out work in the wetland as required by the Management Plan.
- 7.5 The gapping up will be carried out once the whips are available.
- 7.6 Rotten posts and boards at various access points will be replaced.
- 7.7 Overhangs at the pathways which are obstructing the cutting of the paths will be removed.
- 7.8 Dead disease-resistant elms which have died at the wetland area and on Holden's will be removed.

8. Haymaking

- 8.1 Haymaking commenced on 14th July and yielded 230 bales (2020 127 bales). GG did the lion's share, Mike Frost (MF) those areas previously cut by BA and BA dealt with the late-cut areas.
- 8.2 It was agreed that MF should receive the same compensation payments as other contractors and both he and GG will be asked to send in appropriate invoices. **Action: CR**
- 8.3 It is hoped that there will be no need for spot-spraying of the thistles next year.

9. Issues

- 9.1 To prevent incursions, ditches must be maintained and access points secure. Once the access points are repaired residents will be encouraged to report any problems with the defences.
- 9.2 Two ponds in the village appear to have no known owner and if so, they could be adopted. CR will contact the Land Registry regarding the status of Tith Farm pond whilst T B-F will assess the pond by The Old Post Office Stores and the issue will be discussed at the next meeting. There will be no action regarding the 'ghost' pond in Clarke's Lane.
- 9.3 The proposed solution to June Hall's complaint of walkers passing close to her property is to deepen the nearby ditch, create a pedestrian access near the road and cut a permissive path parallel to the road. BA is on standby to undertake the necessary work once she has agreed to the proposals. **Action: RA**
- 9.4 An oak tree is to be donated to the Parish Council by SCC as part of the celebrations for the Queen's platinum jubilee. Members were asked to think of a suitable site in the village for the tree. **Action: All**
- 9.5 Confirmation of the boundaries for properties adjoining the commons will be discussed at the next Board meeting.
- 9.6 Lawnisation in front of properties at Beck's Green was discussed. It was felt that the issue would be best dealt with when the boundaries of those properties are agreed with the residents.

10. Timetable for Draft Management Plan 2022 – 2023

- 10.1 RA had prepared a 'Vision Statement' which set out long-term objectives for the commons and would be included in the Draft Management Plan (DMP). This was agreed with minor amendments to section 4.
- 10.2 A timetable was agreed as follows:
 - a) mid-January 2022, DMP made available on commons website and sent to Commoner's Association secretary
 - b) mid-January 2022, Parish Councils/LMC joint Newsletter delivered to all households in the TWO Parishes, saying that the DMP is available on the website, AND inviting Parishioners to submit expressions of interest to become one of the 3 Directors nominated by the Parish Councils.
 - c) Monday 7th February 2022, Ilkeshall St. Andrew Parish Council meeting, with input from Ilkeshall St. John. Meeting will nominate the 3 Directors from the Parish Councils to serve as Directors following the AGM
 - d) early February 2022, Commoners' Association to hold a meeting to discuss the DMP. Commoners' Association to get feedback and comments to LMC Board by 14th February 2022
 - e) Monday 14 February 2022, LMC AGM, and open meeting to discuss the DMP, receive comments and feedback etc

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Signed

Y. C. Jones

Date

04/01/2022

f) Between 14 February 2022 and 1st March 2022, revise DMP to produce final version, publish on Commons' website, send to Commoners' Association Secretary

10. Any Other Business

10.1 CR raised the subject of 'patch scraping', whereby a digger removed patches of invasive stands of vegetation. This was something that might be required for pond maintenance next year.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

11.1 The date of the next Board meeting will be on Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7pm via Zoom.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.09 hours.

J Bedwell
28th December 2021