

## SILCHESTER COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee met at Lone Barn, Clappers Farm Road, Silchester on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 at 8.00pm.

**Present:** John Harrison (Chair & SPC Rep), Anne Tynegate, Jon Saltmarsh, Chris Lee, Paul Baker, Graham Dennis (HWT), Simon Mahaffey (SPC), Maxta Thomas (Minutes Secretary)

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Item		Action
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b> None.</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Approval of Minutes of May 2015 Meeting</u></b> Minutes unanimously approved.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Terms of Reference</u></b> Simon's annotations were reviewed. Changes were suggested as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'the Silchester Common Management Group has delegated authority to manage the Common on behalf of SPC.'</li> <li>• 'Committee' should be changed to Group throughout ToR.</li> <li>• Report progress annually on 5 year plan, not ratify every year. However, budget should be ratified annually.</li> <li>• Consensus equals two thirds majority of quorate vote.</li> <li>• Parish Council members – two current members (or nominated representatives).</li> <li>• Commoners and Association members to be changed to 'at least four and up to six additional representatives from the Silchester area.</li> <li>• Hampshire Heathlands Project Officer should be Hampshire Wildlife Trust representative.</li> <li>• Co-option – as required up to the maximum.</li> <li>• Chairman – should be elected on annual basis from members of the Group at the Group meeting immediately following the PC AGM.</li> <li>• To be added – 'The Parish Clerk will act as secretary to the Group whenever available.</li> <li>• Meetings should be held at least four times a year.</li> <li>• A register of members to be kept by PC clerk.</li> </ul> <p>These changes were unanimously agreed. Maxta and Simon to make necessary changes and report back to SPC.</p>	MT/SM
4.	<p><b><u>SCMC Volunteers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Work areas</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bramley ponds until too wet to continue.</li> <li>2. Area behind cricket pitch and main footpath that goes to school (thinning out thicket)</li> <li>3. General improvement of area around school.</li> </ol> <p>The above work was unanimously agreed.</p> </li> <li>• Work group dates and group leaders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17/10 - John Harrison</li> <li>21/11 - AnneTynegate</li> <li>12/12 - Jon Saltmarsh</li> <li>27/12 - Chris Lee</li> <li>16/1 – Simon Mahaffey</li> <li>6/2 - John Harrison</li> <li>5/3 - Paul Baker</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>19/3 - Jon Saltmarsh. JS to email volunteers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inviting new members to the group – Chris noted that there is a possible volunteer to stand as a group member. He also suggested seeing if anyone else is interested. It was unanimously agreed to invite the volunteer to join if the PC ratify new ToR, and put further recruitment on hold for now.</li> <li>Chainsaw refreshers – Chris and Andy Allcock are due refresher training in the next six months. Further volunteers being chainsaw trained would be useful. Simon noted that he would be willing to do the full training. Refresher training could be done via HWT, with any possible assessments being done separately later.</li> <li>Clothing/equipment replacement requirements – Richard Brown has bought 10 pairs of new gloves which are more expensive than old gloves, but are of excellent quality. It was agreed that existing gloves should be sorted and disposed of as necessary, with new gloves being allocated to specific volunteers. Andy Allcock needs gloves and boots for chainsaw use, and Chris will need trousers. Chris to obtain a quote for new kit so that it can be budgeted for. Paul suggested that Richard Brown should attend one group meeting a year in his capacity as tool manager to give an annual report. It was unanimously agreed that John H will ask if he would be prepared to do so.</li> <li>Chris suggested that next of kin contact details should be held in case of emergencies. Jon S to co-ordinate with Graham on an electronic version that can be printed for work parties. Medical information should also be available.</li> <li>Christmas cards – Jon S to speak with Steven Hodgson with regards to using photos for Christmas cards for volunteers.</li> </ul>	<p>JS</p> <p>GD/CL</p> <p>CL</p> <p>JH</p> <p>JS/GD</p> <p>JS</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>Dog Waste bins</u></b></p> <p>Email received from resident, noting that there is a lot of dog waste on the common, and not very many waste bins. Discussed at PC. A suggestion was to spray areas for a week, and leaflet drop at the same time asking people to clear up after their dogs. Another PC suggestion was to replace nesting posters should be replaced with dog waste posters over the winter. John H suggested banning professional dog walkers – he noted that these dogs tend not to be properly under control. This would need to be passed as a bylaw.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simon to take bylaw idea back to PC.</li> <li>Signs and leaflet unanimously agreed – PC to take forward.</li> <li>Additional bin on corner of Impstone &amp; Pamber Road to be requested, also one half way up Impstone Road – John H to supply Maxta with a map and she will request from BDBC.</li> <li>It was felt that paint idea was unnecessary.</li> </ul> <p>Same resident also requested an extra gate opposite her house on Pamber Road. John H has suggested that if she pay for the gate, it could be installed. However, group members felt that this was unnecessary and also set a precedent. It was agreed to not accede to this request. John H to write a reply to the resident for clerk to send on behalf of Council.</p>	<p>SM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>JH/MT</p> <p>JH / MT</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><u>Update on Boardwalk repairs</u></b></p> <p>Richard Brown has carried out repairs over the summer. Richard is continuing to carry out maintenance on various boardwalks, particularly with regards to removing wire and replacing slats.</p> <p>He has done extensive work on the Long Walk boardwalk, and asked whether part of the walk should be respaced. He noted that extra slats will</p>	

	<p>be required if this is done. It was agreed to leave the section as it is for the present.</p> <p>John H to write a letter of thanks on behalf of SCMG and the Parish Council to Richard and his team for their work.</p>	JH
7.	<p><b><u>Cattle Update</u></b></p> <p>One of the cattle has been put down due to ongoing lameness and old age. Another got its foot caught in the fence, but sustained minimal injuries. Rest of cattle are well. Graham to get in touch with herdsman about potential acorn poisoning risks.</p>	GD
8.	<p><b><u>Finance update</u></b></p> <p>VAT return coming through. Very good financial position at present. Anne and Maxta liaising on VAT.</p>	AT/MT
9.	<p><b><u>HLS update</u></b></p> <p>Nothing new to report. New 5 year plan needs to be ready for April 2016. This will essentially be a 'plan in place that will continue to maintain the common'. John and Anne are negotiating with NE on capital works plans – particularly the valley mires project. It was noted that the second 5 year plan will be a much lighter touch than previous 5 years.</p> <p>The PC has requested a five year plan for maintenance, which will be submitted by SCMG for the middle of 2016.</p> <p>Anne suggested whole Committee walk around the common to see areas that will need work over time.</p> <p>Opposite Upper Inhams Copse and String Lane – a request has been received to remove holly and bushes near one of the houses in Lordswood. This needs to be reviewed and communicated back to PC. John H to look at issue as a whole.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant applications for woodland – the PC may be able to obtain grants for a feasibility study for commercial viability. It was noted by members that Silchester Common is unlikely to be commercially viable, and care would need to be taken not to contravene the HLS agreement. It was agreed that if the PC wish to follow this up they can, but should keep SCMG informed. Simon to report back to the PC.</li> </ul>	JH  JH  SM
10.	<p><b><u>Karslake Pond update</u></b></p> <p>Graham has removed Crassula from the pond. There has been regrowth of the iris but this cannot be dealt with now as the pond is too wet. Graham to continue to monitor review the Crassula. Further work as necessary in summer 2016.</p>	GD
11.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <p>Simon noted the need for 6-monthly inspections of the boardwalks. This is in hand – Richard Brown will be doing this.</p> <p>Jon S asked for suggestions to bring in new volunteers. The Parish magazine and the shop in Pamber were both suggested. John H suggested targeting new residents in village. Paul to include a flyer with packs for new incomers to the parish.</p>	PB
12.	<p><b><u>Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Proposed date: 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015. TBC nearer the date.</p>	