

SILCHESTER COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee met at Lone Barn, Clappers Farm Road, Silchester on 1st December at 8.00pm.

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Item		Action
1.	<p><u>Apologies</u> None.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Election of Chairman</u> John Harrison has decided to step down as Chair, and proposed Chris Lee as the new Chairman. This was seconded by Jon Saltmarsh and unanimously agreed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length of term of office – although the term would typically run to June 2016, the group considered this to be a very short amount of a time for a new Chair to settle in. John H proposed the new Chair staying in place until June 2017 – this was unanimously agreed. 	
3.	<p><u>Approval of Minutes of September 2015 Meeting</u> Minutes unanimously approved. Actions Arising –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terms of Reference have been agreed by SPC. • Safety clothing – Maxta to chase Andy Allcock for expenses claim. • Richard Brown still to be invited to a future SCMC meeting. • Chris approach Sean Spicer to see if he would be interested in a future role on SCMC. Some discussion whether committee members should be responsible for heading up work parties, or whether non-committee members could do so. It was agreed that non-committee members could do so, provided it has been approved by SCMC/ • Christmas cards – Jon S to take forward. • Dog waste bins – SPC has discussed. Two new bins agreed – Maxta to take forward. However, a leaflet drop to nearby houses was felt to be a good idea. • Flyer for volunteers for work parties – agreed to leave it at an item in the welcome packs for new people to the village. 	<p>MT</p> <p>CL</p> <p>JS</p> <p>MT</p>
4.	<p><u>SCMC Volunteers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of new tools – 10 new bow saws to be purchased by Richard Brown – Chris to action. It was noted that SCMC needs to reinforce tool care to work party members to prevent tools being lost. Working party to be asked if there are any tools that they feel need to be supplied. New mugs need to be purchased – Jon S to action. • Chainsaw training – Graham stated that some refresher training may be coming up in the New Year. Graham to keep Chris and Andy Allcock updated. Possible issue as Andy needs to be formally assessed. Graham to check if this is possible. Training hopefully before April. • Next of kin contacts for work parties – Graham to let Jon S know how HWT handle the issue. Jon S then to collect data. 	<p>CL</p> <p>JS</p> <p>GD</p> <p>GD/JS</p>
5.	<p><u>Cattle Update</u> All cattle are well. One has some arthritis, and may need to be slaughtered in</p>	

	<p>due course. Acorn consumption has not been a problem. There are 23 cattle at the moment.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Fence/Gate/Boardwalk issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slippery boardwalk surfaces – Jon S noted that some boardwalks are slippery after the recent constant wet weather. Chris noted that covering all boardwalks with the correct mesh would be expensive, although one or two could be done initially as a trial. Chris to ask Richard Brown to investigate and give an estimate on pricing. New gate on Pamber Road – this has now been installed after being approved by SPC, and the resident requesting it is extremely happy. Installing the gate will have no impact on the guarantee for the fence. Damage to fences – part of the fence from the Common into Inhams Copse, by the kissing gate, has been deliberately cut. This has now been repaired with high tensile wire. Graham to monitor. 	<p>CL</p> <p>GD</p>
7.	<p><u>Finance update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Herdsman invoices – there has been a mix up with payments to the herdsman, with one invoice being paid twice after a cheque went astray. This has now been resolved. Future payments to the herdsman will be by BACs. A VAT claim has gone in for quarter 2 – there will be approximately £550 payable to SCMC when this is received. £7766 has been received from the RPA – this is for HLS. 	MT
8.	<p><u>HLS update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report on indicators of success – Anne has distributed a report, and is incorporating feedback. It was noted that whilst certain key items need to happen, the plan needs to be flexible. This is not a management process report. Once SCMC have approved the report it will be distributed to SPC for info, and to Natural England. It will ultimately be put on the website. The committee recorded formal thanks to Anne for her detailed work on the report. Clearance areas for 2016 – 2021 - Anne to speak with Andy Hartley about mapping software. Derek Fawcett has a drone and can take photos to give an aerial view of the common – this would assist in mapping and planning. Some discussion on legality; however, it is PC land and Derek has offered service for free. This will be put to SPC for formal permission. 	<p>AT</p> <p>AT</p> <p>SM</p>
9.	<p><u>Update – grants for woodland management</u></p> <p>Simon updated – he has fed back to SPC that SCMC were happy for them to pursue this, provided that it does not impact on HLS, and that SCMC are kept informed. Cllr Spillane has followed this up; however, the contractor in question has taken the issue further than required, and a halt has been called to the issue for now. Jon S asked if such a management plan would result in more income than HLS – Anne confirmed that it would not, and further stated that if the woodland taken out of HLS, via the current method the HLS money would be reduced by a significant amount.</p> <p>Simon to report to SPC that SCMC do not support a 10 year management plan, but would not object to SPC investigating a 20 – 30 year feasibility study.</p>	SM
10.	<p><u>Tree issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoning and inspection – the Chair of SPC has sent out details on the issue to SCMC. Statistical risk numbers are very small. SCMC has not yet been asked officially; however, after some discussion it was decided to advise against it. However, if SPC insist that inspections take place, then SCMC need to drive the project. It was also noted 	SM

	<p>that whenever problems are raised by members of the public, SCMC react very quickly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees near The Forge – a request has been received by SPC to look at some of the trees overhanging this property; however, any trees near it appear belong to neighbours. Chris to check in his capacity as PC tree warden. • Request from Fred Gill – verbal request take out four trees on Common/Pamber Forest near his property. He would pay for work. John H noted that the footpath near the property is due to be widened. SCMC awaiting a formal written request. • Request from Peter Hughes – trees blocking view from his house. This area is to be thinned in due course as part of the 5 year plan. However, it will need to be examined closely as bats are known to roost in trees. 	CL
12.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Proposed date: 1st March 2016. TBC nearer the date.</p>	
13.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some concern was noted about recent events where the Chair of SPC has stepped outside of due process. It was noted that SCMC needs to manage the common a day to day basis, and SPC should leave it to them to do so. The Chair of SPC should not be bringing agenda items to SCMC without going via SPC first. Simon to ask the Chair of SPC again that due process be followed. • Jon S requested that future meetings should be less than 2 hours. • Simon proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing chair- this was fully supported. • Simon requested that a central point be accessible to all members electronically for general documents. However, circulated emails such as agendas and minutes should still be sent via email. Maxta to look into. • Paul noted that the boards in the high sided trailer will need to be replaced soon. To be taken to SPC. 	<p>SM</p> <p>MT</p> <p>SM/JH</p>