

SILCHESTER COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee met at the Calleva, School Lane, Silchester on 26th May 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.	<u>Apologies</u> Bob Radley	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes of January 2015 Meeting</u> Minutes unanimously approved.	
3.	<u>Co-option to SCMC</u> JH proposed and CL seconded that Anne Tynegate be formally co-opted to SCMC. Unanimously agreed	
4.	<u>Ratification of SPC election of second SPC representative</u> Following the recent SPC AGM where it was proposed that John Harrison and Simon Mahaffey were the official SPC representatives to SCMC, SM has asked that SCMC formally ratify his appointment. The motion was proposed by JH, seconded by JS, and carried unanimously	
5.	<p><u>Working relationship between SCMC and SPC</u></p> <p>JH noted that the more formal arrangement whereby SPC made policy decisions and then SCMC looked after day to day running of the Common has changed in recent times, and there is a need to revert to the more formal arrangements previously used.</p> <p>JH proposed that the arrangements revert to their previous formal footing, that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCMC to be responsible for the day to day management of the Common • SPC to be responsible for policy issues, with input and ratification from SCMC • Any suggestions, ideas or directions to be passed to SCMC via SPC as a whole and not via individual SPC members • SCMC meetings will be held at least quarterly • SPC Chair not to attend SCMC meetings unless invited for a specific purpose. <p>This was all agreed unanimously. JH to report back to SPC at next SPC meeting.</p> <p>SM proposed to review the Terms of reference, this was accepted.</p>	<p>JH</p> <p>SM</p>
6.	<u>SCMC presentation to public – 9th June</u> JH gave background – the event is intended to help members of the public understand the management of the Common. JH has written an article and an advert, which has been published in the June parish magazine.	

	<p>The structure is as follows: JH to chair; Harold Makant (Natural England) to open with an overview of SSSI and HLS, and why it needs to be managed; GD to talk about the ecology, detailing the rarity of the habitat; JS to talk about the Volunteer group, including their work on access issues. There will be time after for questions from the floor.</p> <p>It was agreed that refreshments should be served beforehand with a 7.30 advertised start time.</p> <p>Posters and flyers to be produced, JH to produce written details.</p> <p>Regarding further recruitment for the Work Parties, the group is at a healthy level at present, however new members are always welcomed and the event will provide an opportunity to advertise the group.</p> <p>PB to organise photographic presentation for the event.</p>	<p>JH/GD /JS</p> <p>JH</p> <p>PB</p>
7.	<p><u>SCMC volunteers BBQ</u></p> <p>PB gave an update – BBQ on 7th June at Cricket Pavilion for 25 to 30 people. He gave estimated costs of £350-£400. JS to send a reminder email to possible attendees asking for them to confirm attendance. Spouses to be invited as well, with a quick whip round if event goes over budget.</p>	PB
8.	<p><u>Cattle update</u></p> <p>Cattle all well. The Grazier had requested that SCMC contact APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) on his behalf to obtain a separate herd number for the Dexters on Silchester Common, to avoid repeat TB testing when the other herds managed by Grazier require repeat TB testing. AT has contacted Vicente Lopez Chavarrias, Senior Veterinary Inspector to facilitate this and APHA have confirmed that repeat testing of the Silchester herd is not now required.</p>	
9.	<p><u>Finance update</u></p> <p>Amount in accounts should be around £16,000. £8k is SPS payment. Next major income should be HLS at end of year, and VAT money from SPC in due course. Position is comfortable at the moment. HLS capital works are complete. MT to check transfers between SPC and SCMC account</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>MT</p>
10.	<p><u>Silchester Volunteer Group update</u></p> <p>Richard Brown has submitted an invoice for tools – MT to check if this is an expenses claim or whether the invoice needs to be paid.</p>	MT
11.	<p><u>HLS update</u></p> <p>AT has passed on a proposal to Harold Makant (NE) for possible new capital works from April 2016. Some work needs to be done in tandem with Natural England to finalise these plans. JH noted that we have until 1st April 2016 to finalise this (Post meeting note – April 2016, is not a cut off date, as this capital works funding can be applied for after the commencement of the next 5 year phase of the basic HLS funding). NE have indicated that capital works funding will be more difficult in the future, however as Silchester Common is seen as an area where positive work is being carried out, this will increase any prospects of additional funding. The basic HLS payment will continue from April 2016 until March 2021.</p> <p>JH noted that the next five year plan is likely to be very similar to the previous 5 year plan, which Natural England was very happy with.</p>	AT

12.	<p><u>Karslake Pond update</u></p> <p>JH has met with David Glover, who is very happy with how Karslake Pond looks. SCMC to continue to monitor. GD noted that ponds are a transient habitat, and if habitat is to be maintained, it will need work at some point. Could be worth involving part of volunteer work party.</p> <p>Recurrence of Crassula has been noted . GD to clear from the pond.</p>	GD
13.	<p><u>Events on the Common</u></p> <p>SM suggested 'acorn camp' type event for youngsters in village and possible events in tandem with school and various specialists on common (newts, nightjars etc). Possibly talk to David Glover re newts (pond dipping?) – JS to follow up.</p> <p>SM noted possible ideas for commercial woods management and commercial cattle management</p>	JS
14.	<p><u>Sight Lines</u></p> <p>CL raised issue of overgrowth coming out of Pavilion car park – visibility is very poor. Also noted other paths on Common out onto highways may need clearing. He noted that sightlines should be tidied up. JH to take to PC to action.</p>	JH
15.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>CL – non-slip mesh surface for bridges – surface is expensive. MT noted that there may be grant funding for the mesh surface. Need to investigate funding. MT to check on BDBC funding streams. AT to also enquire if there is HLS capital works money available. Agenda item for next meeting.</p> <p>Also need a work party on bridges, as some need repair. Forgotten bridge to be removed ASAP by JH (post meeting note – this bridge simply requires three slats to be replaced during the summer bridge repair work party).</p> <p>Keys for gates - £130 for tamper proof lock – revert to next meeting.</p>	MT AT JH
16.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Proposed date: Tuesday 15th September 2015. TBC nearer the date.</p>	