

# BLAXHALL COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

Minutes of Trustees Meeting 19 June 2022, 5pm

2 Ship Cottages, Blaxhall

In attendance: Andrew Derrick (chair)  
Mark Oakley  
Eve Rossor  
Rosy Thornton  
Rodney West

Apologies: Karen Baker  
Mike Livesey

- 1. Minutes of the previous meeting (AGM 14.05.22):** Following correction of a typing error, the minutes were accepted. They will be uploaded to the website as a draft, pending final approval at the 2023 AGM.
- 2. Matters arising:** A generous donation of £500 had been received from two BCOST supporters and founder members, who have recently moved away from the village. Trustees had written individually to express their thanks.
- 3. Stone Common Management Plan:** Rodney and Andrew had prepared and circulated a draft, and were thanked for their hard work. The overriding 'vision' for the next 15 years was agreed:
  - Encourage public access
  - Seek to return a major part of the site to acid grassland
  - Retain and manage the woodland
  - Continue to make provision for allotments and grazing in repose to local demand.

Allotments: It was agreed we should add a section making clearer the purpose of the allotments, with an emphasis on cultivation (while also allowing for grazing). New licence agreements would need to be signed by allotment holders and would take effect from September. It was agreed to have a separate agreement (and fee) for amalgamated sites which were used for grazing (sheep or horses). This would need to be agreed by trustees at or before the next meeting. **Action: Andrew to circulate current licence form.**

Buildings and structures: this section to be renamed Structures and fencing. Add a sentence to emphasise the need for open access to comply with BCOST's charitable purposes. Apart from around allotments, fences and barriers should be removed unless required for livestock. New fencing will need BCOST approval. Asbestos will need to be removed as part of the Trust's duty to secure enhanced, safe public access. It was suggested that grazing areas should be mainly focused on the land to the south of Prevost's path, with separate fee and agreements (to cover fencing, water and general care).

Draft text on rubbish and trees and hedging: agreed.

Next steps: Andrew to revise the draft and once agreed, Mark to print. Aim to circulate it by the end of June/early July with an open meeting to discuss the draft document. (Now booked for Sunday July 31st at the Village Hall at 3pm.) **Actions: Andrew, Mark.**

- 4. The Sheilings:** The Parish Council have received formal notice of Tonya Lindley-Gill's intention to sell the piece of common land. Trustees agreed that the Trust would be prepared to buy the land for a nominal sum. **Action: Eve to draft and circulate a reply to Tonya's email.**

5. **Jasper's Pightle Management Plan:** Ben Calvesbert of SWT reviewed the bracken earlier in the month and advised that it was not yet ready for cutting. Eve to contact him to ask for it to be cut mid-July, reminding him to include the area by the styes where fencing has been removed. **Action: Eve to contact Ben.**

Eve had received an email from Neil Lister (Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB Countryside Projects Officer) asking whether we have any work suitable for volunteers. She will reply suggesting hedge planting along the Snape/Tunstall road, and will indicate that the Trust does not have a supply of saplings. **Action: Eve to reply to Neil**

The Trustees will review the state of the Pightle after the bracken has been cut and assess whether other actions are necessary.

6. **AOB:** Blaxhall Festival - Martin and Eve will set up the display boards and Rosy and Andrew will provide additional posters. Eve to print out the Annual Report. **Actions: Eve, Andrew, Rosy.**

Obligations of Trustees - Rosy to recirculate the documents which we need to understand and consider. To be a future agenda item. **Action: Rosy.**

**Date of Next Meeting:** Saturday July 16th 4.30 pm at Vine Cottage.