

# BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

## MINUTES OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 4:30pm  
2, Ship Cottages

*Attendance:* Andrew Derrick  
Karen Baker  
Mike Livesey  
Eve Rossor  
Rosy Thornton

*Apologies:* Mark Oakley

1. *Minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022 and of the extraordinary meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2022:* It was agreed to recirculate these minutes and approve remotely.
2. *Matters arising:* It was noted that the Charity Commission requirements for the format of accounts and of annual public benefit reporting need to be reviewed in readiness for completion and filing after the end of BCOST's financial year on 31<sup>st</sup> December.
3. *Stone Common*

Following the extraordinary meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> August, a bespoke licence agreement in respect of plots 26 and 27 was drafted, agreed by correspondence and emailed to Suzy and Malcolm Pearce. No response has yet been received. **Action:** Eve to send a follow-up email and offer a further meeting with the Pearces if required.

In respect of plots 1-3, Shane Pictor had emailed to say that his mother would like to discuss this in person. Karen and Eve agreed to visit. **Action:** Eve to fix a time for the visit.

In respect of plots 4,5,6,12A,15,16, and 17, until now licensed to Rodney and Maggie, it was agreed to check whether they are happy not to renew and for these plots now to be under BCOST's direct management. Allotment plot 29 had also been licensed to Rodney but had not been worked for some time. Eve agreed to write to Rodney asking him if he wished to renew the licence. **Action:** Eve to email Rodney and Maggie.

It was noted that plots 18,19 and 20 are out of use because of the presence of the electricity pylons. Eve reported that the pylon has recently been repainted by the National Grid.

In respect of plots 21 to 25, David Moyes has confirmed that he would like to continue to use this area to graze a horse over winter. This will entail the drafting of a grazing licence. **Action:** Rosy to draft a grazing licence.

The Trustees discussed the issues concerning parked vehicles, Nissen huts, horse shelter and hut contents. It was agreed that a shelter could be retained if required as shelter for the horse or for storage purposes connected with grazing (e.g. feed, harness, etc.). In respect of any other vehicles or

structures and their contents it was agreed that we need to ascertain who these belong to and arrange a meeting to discuss.

In respect of allotment plot 28, it was agreed that Eve should email Diane Ramsay to check who had signed the agreement for this allotment along with Peggy Keeble, and to ascertain whether use of the allotment is still required. **Action:** Eve to email Diane.

In respect of allotment plot 30, it was agreed to send a copy of the standard licence agreement to Paul Bryant for signature. **Action:** Eve to send Paul the licence agreement for signature.

It was suggested that a notice be put on the Stone Common noticeboard to ask anyone interested in having an allotment to get in touch. **Action:** Eve to put a notice up.

Bracken: it was agreed that Ben Calvesbert would be approached to see if he could cut the bracken on Stone Common, and also the open grassland. If Ben is unable to help, it was suggested we might explore whether Evelyn might have a flail mower on their farm which could be brought over to clear the bracken, or whether Langmead might be approached for help. **Action:** Eve to email Ben and Evelyn in the first instance.

#### *4. Jasper's Pightle*

Bracken cutting: The first cut was carried out at the end of July. Eve has emailed Ben about a second cut in the next few weeks.

Work parties: Bracken was pulled from the previously wired area where it had grown again. Rosy removed the heaps of bracken into the piggeries. A further work party will be needed following the second cutting. Extra pairs of hands are needed, so new arrivals in the village will be approached. AONB- work parties and hedging: Eve to ask Neil whether the volunteers would be available to rake up bracken. He can provide hedging and trees but would want the trust to provide guards, canes and mulching. Neil mentioned the need to create trenches to ensure that anything planted has a greater chance of surviving dry weather.

Bench: Karen has drawn a blank in sourcing a bench. All agreed that two posts with a plank across would be ideal. **Action:** Andrew to approach John the Tree Surgeon, who has an allotment in Post Office lane.

Signage: Rosy suggested that there should be a small standalone notice board to explain the Pightle. A brass plaque could be placed on the bench in Jasper's memory. Bench, board and plaque to be standing items on future agenda.

#### *5. AOB*

Litter Pick: October 1-10th. Pickers, bags and the list of roads will be by the Vine Cottage back door.

Domain renewal: This is due for renewal on September 22. The cost of basic renewal is £15, with a further sum of required of we wish the site to remain advert-free. It was agreed not to pay the increased sum, but to keep this under review, seeing how much the site is troubled by adverts. **Action:** Andrew to renew (update: Wordpress in fact had Rosy's bank details, and she has renewed).

Andrew has added the final Stone Common Management Plan to the website, as well as some further Minutes and a news item updating about the Stone Common Management Plan and allotments.

Renewal of Trusteeship: It was noted that Mike's Trusteeship is due for renewal in October 2022. Rosy proposed and Eve seconded the proposal to renew, and this was duly approved.

Financial Report: Mike reported that we currently hold £4,817.89 in the bank, with £140 in cash and approximately £32 petty cash.

*Date of Next Meeting:* Saturday 29th October, 4:30 pm at Vine Cottage