

BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

Minutes of Trustees' meeting

Saturday 12 December 2022

Vine Cottage, Blaxhall

In attendance: Andrew Derrick, Trustee - via Zoom
Mark Oakley, Trustee, Chair
Karen Baker, Trustee
Eve Rossor, Trustee
Joy Shaw, Tree Warden - via Zoom

Apologies: Rosy Thornton, Trustee

1. *Minutes of previous meeting on 29 October 2022:* Agreed

2. *Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere*

There had been no progress with helping David Moyes clear the vehicle from his grazing area. Nigella has made considerable progress clearing the area she had grazed.

Rosy and Karen have visited Mollie, who is happy for allotments 1-3 to be cleared and the grass and vegetation managed by the Trust.

3. *Insurance for work parties*

NFU have advised that employers' liability cover is needed for work parties. The additional cost would be approximately £250 per year. After discussion it was agreed to add this at the time of renewal (end of January).

Action: Eve to respond to NFU. Joy will check with other tree wardens as to how they deal with work parties.

4. *Risk assessment document*

Trustees complimented Rosy for her work in putting the document together, and thanked her for her hard work. It was agreed that first aid kits should be acquired for the two Trust sites. The document was adopted.

Action: Eve to purchase two basic first aid kits.

5. *Jasper's Pightle*

Will Newson has agreed to mechanically dig trenches for hedge planting along the B1069 boundary. Rosy, Andrew and Eve had marked out the areas, with the intention of digging taking place nearer the AONB work party dates, the first being Tuesday 13 December. Half of the cost of canes and guards has been met by the AONB. Andrew to join the work party on the 13th; other Trustees sent their apologies.

Around 50% of the area of cut bracken area had been cleared by Trustees. Another session to be arranged.

Action: Eve to identify a date.

Seat update- John Finlinson has the wood for the seat and will be able to install it soon. Andrew is to re-mark the site as previous markings have disappeared. Karen has asked Jasper's brother if he wishes to contribute to costs, including a brass plate. Otherwise the Trust will meet the costs.

Action: Andrew to mark out site. Eve to liaise with Karen over costs, and (if necessary) order brass plate (after agreement with Karen on wording).

6. *Stone Common*

Allotments: Andrew had met with Nick Henshaw (new Stone Common resident), and explained the current situation with regard to allotments. Nick wants an allotment, and is happy to wait until renewal time, as reviving no. 31 or part of Mollie's old allotment would involve considerable work. Karen has been clearing Rod's allotment and Nick offered to help further.

Bracken cutting: Will has completed the cutting but no raking has yet taken place. Joy has not been able to progress the possibility of pigs on the land, but will continue trying.

Hedge planting: Scheduled for Dec 27th and Jan 2nd. Advertised in the Blaxhall village newsletter. Eve to leaflet Stone Common.

Signage: Eve has received the two wooden signs for Prevost's Path. Andrew and Eve to visit to identify where and how they are to be positioned.

Action: Eve to leaflet SC residents. Andrew and Eve to visit re placing signs.

7. *Finance*

There was no updated financial statement. An Annual Report is needed for Charity Commission, and Andrew offered to have a go at completing this. It was noted that the Trust has had a calendar year accounting period whereas the Charity Commission works on the financial year.

Action: Andrew to draft Annual Report in advance of February meeting.

8. *Any other business*

Miranda Barclay, Blaxhall churchwarden, is keen to meet with Trustees to discuss how we might work with the church, which is focused on supporting the environment and involving people. It was agreed to invite Miranda to the next meeting on Sunday 12 February.

Joy informed the meeting that the Kerrs are happy for hedge planting to continue along the track at Stone Common.

Joy suggested that BCOST and the Parish Council should discuss the possibility of extending the AONB boundary to include the whole of Blaxhall Great Common and Blaxhall village up to the railway line. Changing AONB boundaries is a bureaucratic and time-consuming process but the idea should be kept alive, particularly as the RSPB reserve at Langham may become more important with the encroachment of Sizewell C on the reserve at Minsmere.

Notes/items needed for February meeting - Annual report, end of year accounts, report to the Charity Commission, invitation to Miranda.

9. *Date of next meeting*

Sunday 12 February at Vine Cottage, 4 pm (apologies from Joy)

NOTE: All members of the public are welcome to come to meetings, but please let Eve know if planning to attend, for purposes of seating.