

Minutes of a Meeting of Ilketshall St Andrew and St John Land Management Company Ltd. held at Ilketshall St Andrew Village Hall on 8th April 2024 at 7 p.m.

Present: Tim Basey-Fisher (T B-F) (Chairman)
John Bedwell (JB) (Secretary)
Rod Apps (RA)
Lea Ingham (LI)
Jack Poulden (JP)
Chris Roberts (CR)
Roo Lee (RL)

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 The Chairman welcomed everybody.

2. Minutes of the Meeting of 22nd January 2024

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 22nd January 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matter Arising not elsewhere covered in the Agenda

3.1 Item 3.3, that matter has yet to be dealt with.

Action: RA

3.2 Item 6.3, the owner of the sheep is Sharon Morter (SM), not as stated.

4. Resignation of Gerald Godfrey/ New Constitution

4.1 Gerald Godfrey (GG) resigned from the LMC on 26th February, his reason being 'that I have neither the time or the inclination to keep dealing with trivial matters, incessant and invasive calls from commoners complaining'. It will be the responsibility of the Commoner's Association (CA) to find a replacement.

4.2 The revised Constitution has been approved by the Parish Council. The recent meeting of the CA made no decision about this matter.

5. Finance

5.1 The current financial position showed total funds of £75831.

5.2 It was agreed to reinvest fixed rate bond number 4 with Cambridge and Counties Bank for another year at 5% interest.

6. LMC Website and LMC Promotion

6.1 CR reported that the website had been updated with more photos, minutes of the 2023 AGM, the accounts for 2023-2024 and the new Management Plan.

6.2 Residents were being kept informed of LMC matters via e-mail with a circulation of 60 – 70 individual addresses.

7. Winter Work

7.1 The off-cuts of low hanging branches had been collected up but little else had been possible due to the very wet conditions.

7.2 Ragwort needs dealing with. JP will carry out a survey to map and mark occurrences, CR said that if a decision was made to spot spray, he had some blue marker dye.

Action: JP

8. Sheep and the Overwintering Areas

8.1 Sheep had been put on Great Common and were currently on Pear Dyke, the idea being that they would graze down the overwintering areas as these have been too wet to cut. It has not gone exactly to plan, the animals much preferred areas other than those with overwintering vegetation

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Signed



Date

08/07/2024

- and there had been little control over where the animals had been used. CR said that he would speak to GG to find out what arrangements, if any, had been agreed with SM. **Action: CR**
- 8.2 However, it was felt that sheep grazing had the potential to benefit the grass and to reduce costs of haymaking and to that end RA would contact local graziers and contact Suffolk Wildlife Trust to find out what they recommended in the way of grazing regimes. **Action: RA**
- 8.3 It was agreed, however, that the normal haymaking would be carried out as usual for this year.
- 8.4 There have been separate incidents of vandalism in relation to the electric fence enclosing the sheep and lambs. Sharon Morte is monitoring the situation and had been in touch with the police. CR reported that the first incident concerned the deliberate disconnection of the electric fence whilst the flock were on Great Common. The second incident happened on Peardyke when the entire electric fence was, again deliberately, taken down and laid flat to the ground. The culprit responsible for the incident on Great Common had been positively identified and it is hoped no further problems will arise in the future.

9. Results of Soil Sampling

- 9.1 JP had obtained soil samples from all the commons except Mill Common in order to obtain base line data in the event of the Company needing to apply for SFI grants. The samples have been sent off to be analysed but to date the results had not been received.

10. Reserved Business

- 10.1 There were a number of items of reserved business.

11. Other Issues

- 11.1 The pedestrian access for Blacksmith's Common has yet to be constructed. **Action: T B-F**
- 11.2 No work around the English Cottage Pond will be carried out until after the end of June.
- 11.3 Newsletters have been distributed about the issue of 'Lawnisation'. There have been some predictable responses so far but it is too early to say what the overall effect will be.

12. Field Trip Raveningham Estate 10th July 2024

- 12.1 CR will investigate the possibility of a meal afterwards at the Locks Inn, Geldeston and it was agreed that attendees will be asked to pay £5 each to contribute towards costs. **Action: CR**

13. Any Other Business

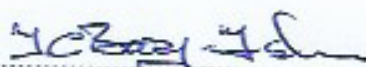
- 13.1 CR will contact Highways about the possibility of adding signs on to the 'Quiet Lanes' posts that say that the commons are a CWS. If Highways have no objection then approval will be sought from the Parish Council. If Highways are not agreeable the possibility of separate single posts carrying the sign will be considered. **Action: CR**
- 13.2 It was decided that the overwintering area should be rotated as they cannot be cut in wet winters. T B-F will produce a plan for the proposed new areas for this year. **Action: T B-F**
- 13.3 To show that the LMC is practicing what it preaches with regard to 'lawnisation', Keiron McCarthy will be asked not to cut the area by the village sign too short. **Action: JB**
- 13.4 CR will produce some ideas for a 'Welcome Pack' for new residents in the village. **Action: CR**

14. Date of the Next Meeting

- 14.1 The date of the next Board meeting will be on Monday 8th July 2024 at the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.20 hours.

J Bedwell
15th May 2024



08/07/2024