

HESWORTH COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD on March 30th 2015

Present: Mr Mike Allin (Fittleworth Parish Councillor)
Mrs Hazel Barkworth (Commoner)
Mr Chris Welfare (Fittleworth Parish Councillor)
Mr Dan Cornell (South Downs National Park)

Matters arising

- a) DC may be able to flail the 1988 plantation in the Autumn
- b) Management Plan now finalised with Natural England. CW can put it on the web-site
- c) Everyone is keeping an eye out for fly-tipping, and will report it if seen
- d) We are still keeping an eye on Badgers in St Marys. Land Registry to be checked for EXACT line of property frontage, where a small garden has been created with fencing. It all looks rural and pleasing but worries arise over possible future if house is sold
- e) Lorries are still scraping the sandy bank on south side of A283; keep a watching brief
- f) Forest Schools are still interested to use the common, but they must NOT light fires
- g) MA will organise a revision of his flyer about the common and CW agreed that copies could be put into the Village Magazine for distribution
- h) New seat in NW area B not yet done, steps are to be left uncleared as there is a reasonable path alongside.
- i) Areas B and C were cleared of bramble and scrub and trees felled to clear the view. Area E checked for heather and scrub cleared. DC and his helpers kindly did this for us.

New Items:

- 1) Check the 57 trees planted in centre of common and re-stake as necessary.
- 2) In the autumn DC will flail the 1988 plantation and collect heather seeds, and will spray the bracken at the right time.
- 3) Claim for moneys for 2014 work from Natural England as per our Management Plan must be made by end of April. MA will also suggest that the Plan is altered to reflect the correct order of the Seasons for work to be carried out. WE know what is meant, but any new Parish Councillors/committee members after future Elections will not.
- 4) Trees in Birchwalks Wood, the WSCC Centenary tree at top of St Mary's Drive and near the Bradley-Williams seat need trimming. Scouts are to be asked to help.
- 5) MA will produce another small "flyer" re the work-days on the Common to be placed in the Village Magazine for months when work-days are arranged—hoping to entice more helpers. Will begin in May magazine.
- 6) MA will check the Land Registry for boundaries of Badgers and Sandrock. Both owners may be infringing their boundaries which could cause problems in the future when either property is sold.
- 7) MA and Andrew Gale will survey the trees growing on the very edges of the common and the triangle where the Bowling green and the Scout & Guide HQ are situated to assess their condition and their stability.

- 8) From the new Plan the next work-day will concentrate on cutting back the birch and scraping beside the path connecting areas B and E, to try to create a fire-break. More birch needs cutting in areas A.B and C, if time.

Future dates:

Work Day with WCV will be on April 12th 2015.

Work Day with South Downs Rangers will be on October 18th 2015

Management meeting on October 12th at Woodside at 4.30pm