

Hesworth Common Management Committee

Minutes of the Hesworth Common Management Committee meeting held on 5th May 2021 in Woodside Cottage

Present: Mike Allin (Fittleworth Parish Councillor Chairman)
Hazel Barkworth (Commoner)
Chris Welfare (Fittleworth Parish Councillor)
Charles Winchester (South Downs National Park)
Tony Broughton (Fittleworth Parish Councillor)

Apologies for absence: None

Minutes of the last meeting held on September 23rd 2019: Agreed

Matters arising

- a) Chris Welfare has put the Hesworth Common Management Plan on the Parish Council website. Land opposite Badgers cottage is okay to park and turn. Badgers may be turned into a B&B.
- b) Following a check by Mike Allin, the Bradley Williams seat is to be left natural. The wood preservative is not to be applied.
- c) The new Main Car Park sign is to be erected on 07/05/2021.
- d) Dan Cornell (Ex Ranger) and Mike Allin cleared Rhododendron in Birchwalks Wood 22/12/2020.
- e) Charles Winchester is to check if Mark McManus will continue to do the bird survey.
- f) The Annual Environmental Stewardship application for 2021 has been submitted to Natural England.
- g) Local rubbish is collected by council members. A yearly collection day is not done.
- h) Illegal swings are still being erected and removed following regular inspection. Under the Crow Act the Parish Council is responsible for the safety of the public on the Common.
- i) The person responsible for the refurbishment of the South-West seat has not been identified.
- j) More saplings have been planted in The Triangle and others will be planted in Birchwalks Wood when the Scouts/Cubs return from lockdown.
- k) The Beech branch hanging over the Rifle Range has been inspected by our tree surgeon who has suggested that we leave it as it is intertwined with an Oak tree where roots are providing reinforcement to the high-level path.
- l) The Chestnut fencing required at the Scout hut end of the Southern footpath has asked to be arranged by the Fittleworth Bowls Club.
- m) The Work Management Plan is to be emailed to everyone by Chris Welfare and added to the minutes.
- n) We discussed at length how to recruit new people to help manage the Common. An article in the Parish Magazine and a leaflet drop were considered. Charles Winchester could organise a heath walk on Hesworth Common, probably in August, but after lockdown is finished.
- p) A Hesworth Common expenditure list was submitted by the Parish Clerk. Total cost was £3,955.
- r) Charles Winchester has emailed a new Fire Track map to Mike Allin.
- s) Mike Allin has produced a map of the Hesworth Common indicating bike tracks. Mike Allin and Tony Broughton have placed 5 new laminated signs on the common banning bikers on the footpaths.
- t) Due to visitor increase, it was agreed not to advertise Hesworth Common outside of the Parish Magazine as it was purchased by the Parish Council for use predominantly by villagers local in the area.

New Items

- 1) Bob Epsom (Historic Tree Ranger) with Charles and Mike Allin carried out an inspection of Flora and Fauna in Birchwalks Wood on 05/05/2021. The only notable Fauna found was Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum x hybridum*) which was discovered just inside the Common from St Mary's.
- 2) Bob Epsom to contact Nigel Hiscox (Natural England) to check the Management Plan for the possibility of linking Birchwalks Wood with Hesworth Common for a possible payment of £1,000 to obtain a felling licence for a 10 year period to enable the area to be cleared of semi-native trees for replanting a mix of native trees. Bob will also produce a survey plan identifying notable trees in Birchwalks Wood for checking if the Common has been recorded on the Rural Land Register.
- 3) Bracken and Bramble Spraying will take place in August. Mike Allin to liaise with Dan Cornell (Ex Ranger). Area B has been done and seeded.
- 4) The Terms of Reference Document is attached to the minutes for members of the Hesworth Common Management Committee to read and agree at the next meeting.
- 5) The next Hesworth Common working day is planned for 16/05/2021 at 10am meeting in the Western car park. The Worthing volunteers have expressed a wish to attend.
- 6) Date of next Management meeting 21/07/2021 at 3.30pm (Woodside Cottage).

The meeting ended at 5:30pm.