



Minutes of a Meeting of the Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission held on Thursday 29th April, 2021 (via Zoom)

Commissioners Present: Rebecca Hart (Natural England & Chairman), Ken Neal (Commoner and Vice Chairman), Derek Cutt (Commoner), Michael Williams (Commoner), Nicole Rorie (Commoner), Claudia Sievers (Commoner), Tony Ferguson (Greenham Trust), Julian Swift-Hook (GPC), Roger Hunneman (NTC), Richard Foster (TTC), Laurence Parker (GCCV), Tony Vickers (LAF, Commissioner), Billy Drummond (WBDC), Julian Swift-Hook (GPC), Frank Huxtable (Commoner), John Thorogood (Commoner), Steven Ardagh Walter (WBDC)

Also present: Paul Hendry (WBDC), Tom Hayward (BBOWT),
Secretary: Lisa Blake (GPC Clerk)

	Action
<p>1 PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>CS – Reported a hole in the fence and would like to know who is responsible for any broken fencing.</p> <p>PH - Clarified the rules around fencing for the Common, adjacent land owners are responsible</p> <p>CS – Talked around the issue of a cow who had died on the Common</p> <p>KN – Clarified that the owner of the cow who had died was contacted and had made arrangements for cow to be removed but not until Monday so the Cow was on the common for a longer period</p> <p>TH – Would like to contact the adjacent land owners to outline their responsibilities regarding fencing. Would also like clarification around who is responsible for the actions of an animal that escapes from the Common.</p> <p>KN – Confirmed that liability falls to the person who’s land and faulty fence has enabled the animal to escape</p>	<p>No actions</p>
<p>2 APOLOGIES</p>	

	Action
<p>Sue Ellis (WB Heritage Forum)</p> <p>Chris Austin</p> <p>Mel Gatward</p>	
<p>3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>JT – Member of Crookham Golf Club</p> <p>KN – Grazier</p>	
<p>4 PRESENTATION OF GCCC ACCOUNTS ETC</p> <p>Clerk explained the accounts to the commission.</p> <p>No questions from the Commissioners</p> <p>PH - asked if funds from WBC had been transferred, Clerk advised they had not yet been received.</p>	<p>PH – to action money transfer from WBDC</p>
<p>5 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>RH – Asked if the meeting if they felt that the minutes were accurate</p> <p>Ken Neal – take the E off the end</p> <p>Derek Cutt – No S (Page 5 and 11)</p> <p>Derek Emes to be removed from Minutes</p> <p>Change Gorse cutting from the Common to the Highway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Page 5 Item 9: Gorse cutting along the highway – Paul Hendry Paul Hendry needs to speak to WBDC highways team regarding this issue 600 mm high, 2m back for the gorse on the roadside ○ Page 5 Item 11: Governance committee to review byelaws ○ Update on Greenham and Crookham Common Commission Regulations Sue Ellis is still working on this and it will be kept on the agenda ○ Update on the Golf Club land swap deal – Paul Hendry PH – Decision should be made in June 2021 ○ Update on Commission’s website www.greenhamcommoncommission.org.uk – Sue Ellis GCCC website is now operational with five main headings 	<p>PH – Speak to the Highways team</p> <p>Clerk – circulate Governance Committee Meeting Minutes after the meeting</p>

	Action
<p>Any questions should be directed to Sue Ellis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on the 'beagle people' and continual disregard of ground nesting bird restrictions - Tom Hayward <p>Has been in touch with Local rural crime PC to discuss ground nesting bird legislation and has arranged a meeting and a partnership with Thames Valley Police DC- Asked for clarification about who the Beagle people are, TH explained that they are a group of people who walk beagle dogs and have not formal name.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on Park Run and Saturn running event – Tom Hayward <p>Saturn Running Event: TH – BBOWT received information about the Saturn running event. A profit is expected from the event and there was a reminder to share some of the profits with the Commission.</p> <p>Park Run update: TH – PH and TH met Park Run representatives regarding the numbers that attend Park run events. PH – Agreed to work with Tom to try and find an alternative location for the Summer months, end of February until the end of August. PH is investigating alternative sites for Park run going forward. TF – Was the possibility discussed with Park run regarding halting some Park runs on alternative Saturdays. PH – The conversation was held and other Park Runs are held on alternative Saturdays so that wouldn't be an issue. JT – Would like Park Run to be reconsidered on the Common. Considers there is a balance to be made between the Park run and the other common users and wildlife. SAW – Was a Park Runner in the past. Would like the benefits of Park Run for the wider community to be considered. LP – Enquired if a charge was made for the Park Run's use of the common – no charge is made as it is a free event. KN – Asked if PH could approach Park run and split the venue so two venues occur on the same week TV – Would like the numbers limited for the Park Run RHart – Would like to review what is proposed to the commission regarding Park Run when PH has finished speaking to Park Run representatives</p>	<p>PH and TH to continue to work with Park Run organisers</p>
<p>6 TO REVIEW AND AGREE ADDITIONAL SIGNATORIES FOR THE BANK ACCOUNT</p> <p>Three current signatories, PH, TF and CA PH would like to step down as a signatory</p>	<p>LB – To talk to two new signatories regarding filling in new</p>

	Action
<p>JSH would like to be added as a signatory</p> <p>KN would also like to be added as a signatory</p>	<p>signatory form</p>
<p>7 TO REVIEW THE GREENHAM COMMON FOOTPATH</p> <p>TV – The timing of the decision needed is not yet critical, the funds are linked to the progress on the Racecourse development. The number of people using the path from Lower farm to Greenham Common is increasing.</p> <p>RH – Asked TV to check minutes from the last meeting and bring an update at a future meeting</p>	
<p>8 TO DISCUSS THE LACK OF COVER FROM WBDC AND BBOWT AT NIGHT AND WEEKENDS (BEFORE 7)</p> <p>Commoners are receiving out of hours phone calls regarding incidents on the common, which are primarily accident related incidents. Council out of hours service directed calls to Commoners</p> <p>PH – Clarified the WBDC out of hours service and how it works.</p> <p>RH – Asked KN to let her know, if the Out of hours calls are still being received by him for the next meeting</p>	<p>PH – To speak to BBOWT regarding who should be contacted as part of the out of hours service</p>
<p>9 TO DISCUSS THE PUBLIC LEAVING GLASS ON THE COMMON</p> <p>KN – Broken glass was reported to BBOWT by a grazier. Glass was there for three days before it was picked up</p> <p>TH – Confirmed that the wardens are on the Common constantly removing glass and other rubbish</p> <p>JT – Suggested that the Graziers may be able to pick up the glass in future</p>	
<p>10 TO DISCUSS HORSE RIDERS USING GRASS AREA FOR GALLOPS</p> <p>KN – Reported that there are quite a few horse riders are galloping on the Common</p> <p>TH – Acknowledged that there is a problem with this on the Common. A record is kept of the conversations that are held with the horse riders</p> <p>SAW – Talked about the Great British Spring Clean project that is being held this year</p> <p>KN – Confirmed that Greenham Parish Council will be running a Spring Clean project</p>	<p>RH – Will ask Sue Ellis to add a note regarding this on the GCCC website Would like a message</p>

	Action
<p>LP – Confirmed that a rescue organisation he is involved in could become involved in a Spring Clean</p> <p>BD – Also confirmed that Greenham are running a spring clean project</p>	<p>added to the website regarding waste disposal</p>
<p>11 REGISTERING GREENHAM COMMON AS A NO DRONE FLY ZONE</p> <p>TV – left the meeting 19:58</p> <p>TH – Certain drone use is acceptable in some instances, would like BBOWT to have some control over the use of drones</p> <p>RH – Everyone in favour of registering Greenham common as a no fly drone zone with No Fly Drones.co.uk</p>	<p>TH – To register the common as a no fly drone zone</p>
<p>12 TO REVIEW MANAGING PUBLIC SPEAKERS AT COMMISSION MEETINGS</p> <p>RH – Clerk to forward Public speakers report</p> <p><u>Additional papers and reports</u></p> <p>13 FOR INFORMATION: A REVIEW OF THE CONDITION OF THE RARE AND SCARCE PLANTS AT GREENHAM (PAGE 10 – 85)</p> <p>RHart – The report is for information</p> <p>DC – Would like this report to appear on the GCCC website, RH agreed</p> <p>14 OVERGRAZING OBSERVATIONS BY NATURAL ENGLAND (PAGE 86-93)</p> <p>RH – Explained the report</p> <p>DC – Cited a report that mentions early Winter as a possible time to stop grazing on the Common. Would like RH to check with Graham Stevens regarding the time frame for controlling grazing</p> <p>KN – Graziers generally have an issue with the numbers of cattle quoted in the Grazing report, produced by BBOWT’s Ecology team. – see item 15 below</p> <p>DC – Explained why there might be a disparity between the cattle numbers quoted. Conservation Management Committee can discuss the grazing report</p>	<p>LB – RH to forward report to Clerk for circulation</p> <p>RH – send Report to Sue to make available on website.</p> <p>RH to find out what Graham Steven meant by “Early Winter”</p> <p>Add the following to CMC: grazing</p>

	Action
<p>RH – Asked if the committee can meet via Zoom</p> <p>DC – Would like a face to face meeting for the CM Committee to meet, DC advised he would like to step down as Chairperson for the CMC</p> <p>MW – Asked for confirmation regarding Monitoring rare and scarce plants</p> <p>RH – Confirmed that Natural England will carry out their own monitoring in conjunction with BBOWT</p> <p>KN – Commoners have taken action to reduce the number of cattle on the common</p> <p>JT – Considers that overgrazing has been occurring on the common and would like regulations to manage the overgrazing on the common.</p> <p>KN – Detailed that there are larger and larger areas of Gorse on the Common</p> <p>RH – Would like overgrazing and gorse cutting picked up at the CM Committee</p> <p>DC – Would like to suggest that several years of compliance to the current regulations, are considered to enable grazing to be monitored correctly</p> <p>PH – Noted that KN always appears to be the voice of the Commoners and does take his cattle off the common in the Winter</p> <p>DC – Corrected that KN is usually the voice for the Graziers not the Commoners.</p>	<p>numbers concern in BBOWT, overgrazing & gorse management</p>
<p>15 BBOWT REPORT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT (PAGE 94 -97)</p>	
<p>RH – asked if there were any comments</p>	<p>JH to send minutes of Governance meeting to share post meeting</p>
<p>JT – Provided a summary of the Governance committee meeting. Will send the summary to the Clerk earlier so the summary can be included in the next meeting pack.</p>	<p>RH – To ask Sue Ellis to update contact for meeting on the website and to remove PH contact details</p>
<p>16 AOB</p>	
<p>TH – Enquired about how members of the public can attend the Commission meetings. Would like to add a link to BBOWT on the new GCCC website</p>	
<p>DC – Spring Clean</p>	
<p>JT – Highlighted that Travellers Friend pub may not be available for meetings. Clerk to ask St Mary’s church if the Church hall is free for the GCCC meetings</p>	
<p>RH – Next meeting is the GCCC AGM for the year, 29th July</p>	
<p>PH – Reminded the Commoners to nominate themselves for the next meeting.</p>	
<p>A Risk assessment needs to be carried out for face-to-face meetings to resume.</p>	
<p>Meeting ended 8:40pm</p>	

	Action
<p style="text-align: center;">POST MEETING COMMENTS:</p> <p>Email from Chris Austin dated 5 May 2021</p> <p><i>“Yet another long report about the Common. The time and effort would have been better spent on a tractor cutting down the gorse which gets worse all the time.</i></p> <p><i>Cattle were eating gorse shoots until a few weeks ago but they are overwhelmed by the enormous amount of gorse and intervention by burning or cutting is urgently needed”</i></p> <p><i>Any issues/queries which come up in response to the new website will be included as an agenda item for the next meeting</i></p>	