

**GREENHAM &  
CROOKHAM COMMONS  
COMMISSION**



## **Minutes of a Meeting of the Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission held on Thursday 2<sup>1st</sup> July 2022**

**Commissioners Present:** Rebecca Hart (Natural England & Chairman), Ken Neale (Commoner and Vice Chairman), Derek Cutt (Commoner), Michael Williams (Commoner), Frank Huxtable (Commoner), Derek Emes (Commoner), Tony Ferguson (Greenham Trust), Julian Swift-Hook (GPC), Roger Hunneman (NTC), Billy Drummond (WBDC), Steve Ardagh-Walter (WBDC), Tony Vickers (LAF), Tom Hayward (BBOWT), Steve Proud (BBOWT)

**Also present:** Tom Hayward (BBOWT), Jamie Neaves (Natural England), Sue Ellis (WB Heritage Forum)  
**Secretary:** Jamie Neaves took notes as the Clerk was absent

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1 PUBLIC SESSION</b></p> <p>Fraser Harding, Event Director for Park Run present at the meeting. Had no specific questions for the Commission but is keen to maintain a good relationship with the commission, and can make himself available to join if appropriate. He is available to answer questions regarding Park Run at any time.</p>	
<p><b>2 APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Nicole Rorie (Commoner) Laurence Parker (GCCV) Paul Hendry (WBDC) Lisa Blake (GPC Clerk) Ann Johnson (Commoner)</p>	
<p><b>3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>None</p>	

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>4 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Highlights on document 'Chairperson Report: July 2022'.  Many thanks to Sue Elis and Derek Emes for their work on the Commission website.  Many thanks to Sue for her continued efforts with the regulations.  Thank you to all of the Commission. After joining 12 years ago, RH will miss the Commission but is not too far away and hopes to see people out on the common in the future.  KN – a vote of thanks to Rebecca Hart, all agreed.</p>	
<p><b>5 PRESENTATION OF GCCC YEARLY ACCOUNTS FY 2021/22</b></p> <p>Unable to present accounts due to access to bank statements, would be beneficial if could access these online in the future.</p>	JN to look into online access to bank statements with LB.
<p><b>6 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN</b></p> <p>RH to act as Paul Hendry (WBDC Appointed Officer) for the AGM in PH's absence.  Nominations for Chair: Jamie Neaves nominated himself, Billy Drummond proposed, Sue Ellis seconded, all agreed.  Jamie Neaves appointed as Chairman.</p>	
<p><b>7 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN</b></p> <p>Tony Ferguson nominated Ken Neale, Julian Swift-Hook seconded, all agreed.  Ken Neale re-appointed as Vice Chairman.</p> <p><i>JN began chairing meeting and RH taking minutes from 6:45pm</i></p>	
<p><b>8 APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION COMMITTEES, PLANNING/GC/CMC/FUNDRAISING</b></p> <p>Planning – continue with lead and members (<b>Ken Neale lead</b>)  Governance – John Thorogood (<b>lead</b>) in absence, Michael Williams, Tony Vickers, Julian Swift-Hook, Sue Ellis.  Conservation – Derek Emes (<b>lead</b>), Tom Hayward, Frank Huxtable, Claudia Sievers in absence, Nicole Rorie in absence.  Those absent will automatically be re-elected onto the committees and can step down.</p>	
<p><b>9 ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS</b></p> <p>Not necessary at the AGM</p>	

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update on Greenham and Crookham Common Commission Regulations – SE</li> </ul> <p>Governance committee, meeting has not yet occurred.</p> <p>No update on parking machines from BBOWT.</p> <p>Regulations. DEFRA have provided updated Regulations with a meeting arranged to review these. DC – would like to see the new draft revision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update on leased grazing rights – TH Update on grazing rights. BBOWT have leased rights.</li> <li>○ Rights provision at Crookham Pools - PH</li> </ul> <p>Rights provision at Crookham Pools to be discussed in agenda item 12.</p>	<p>Action: JN to contact JT about Governance meeting.</p> <p>Action: TH to update via email when data is available.</p> <p>Action: SE to contact JN regarding new draft revision meeting. Action: SE to circulate updated regulations draft. Action: LB and JN to review grazing rights and communications with commoners.</p>
<p><b><u>Matters for decision and presentation</u></b></p>	
<p><b>11 GROUND NESTING BIRD RESTRICTIONS</b></p> <p>TH - explained a new process to sign off restrictions and signage for upcoming years, based on observations and reports on bird locations/numbers/behaviour from previous years. TF – queried what would happen if commission did not agree with the proposals? TH – then no restrictions would be put in place. Some discussion took place regarding what we are permitted to do as a commission in terms of the national legislation. BBOWT can create additional restrictions through West Berkshire Council for up to 30 days without permission from commission. Proposal: Annual review with scope for emergency implementations JN, seconded by JSH, all in favour.</p>	<p>Action: JN to check to check implications of national legislation and situation with timing of restrictions.</p>

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>12 REGARDING CROOKHAM POOLS COMMON LAND, AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 3(3) OF GREENHAM AND CROOKHAM COMMONS ACT 2002.</b></p> <p>From PH in absence – no records of a decision on Crookham Pools could be found, and will need to take advice on this. The land is open for grazing. A procedural exercise to allow this land to be opened up for use under commoners’ rights is required. Proposal: Seek formal resolution to incorporate land as per the Act TF, seconded JSH, all in favour. Action: PH to seek further information on Crookham Pools Common Land.</p>	
<p><b>13 EVENTS INCLUDING CONTROL TOWER EVENT</b></p> <p>Tom Hayward gave information on an event by a third party at the decontamination unit on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2022. No issues raised. Tom Hayward gave information on upcoming event on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2022, with the Coin Exchange hosting ‘Bel Horizon’ performance arts. Consisting of a group of up to 500 hundred visitors, stewards will lead smaller groups to fire plane for performances. Activity taking place outside of bird nesting season. Proposal: Agree for event to take place JSH, seconded BD, all in favour.</p>	
<p><b>14 NEWBURY AND CROOKHAM GOLF CLUB ON GCC LAND</b></p> <p>Tom Hayward gave information on a new 30 house development on the gold club. Access would be across a small area of the common land as defined on the map. KN – suggests that commoners take in interest in this issue. Action: PH to check if land concerned is actually on or off common land.</p>	<p>Action: JN/LB include at next meeting</p>
<p><b>Additional Papers and Reports</b></p>	
<p><b>15 LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT</b></p> <p>No questions or issues raised.</p>	
<p><b>16 AOB</b></p> <p>KN – Academic from Oxford Brooks has been undertaking survey work in relation to a wind turbine on the business park. SP – Rights of Way Act, rules can be relaxed by the Commission regarding nesting bird restrictions referenced in agenda item 11. MW – video of two bulls fighting was taken on the common and asked how the situation will be managed. (JSH had to leave at 7:35pm.) KN advised that one entire male bull is allowed on the common. Bulls had been split for a few weeks prior to an escaped bull coming onto the common. The incident on the common was therefore the two bulls deciding on their ‘pecking order’. The escaped bull was removed.</p>	<p>Action: KN to clarify rule around one entire bull being allowed on the common.</p>
<p><b>Meeting ended at 7:39pm</b> <b>Next meeting date will be sent with minutes of the meeting.</b></p>	

	<b>Action</b>