

**GREENHAM &
CROOKHAM COMMONS
COMMISSION**



Minutes of a Meeting of the Greenham and Crookham Commons Commission held on Thursday 27th October 2022

Commissioners Present: Ken Neale (Commoner and Vice Chairman), Derek Cutt (Commoner), Michael Williams (Commoner), Nicole Rorie (Commoner), Claudia Sievers (Commoner), Chris Austin (Commoner), Derek Emes (Commoner) Julian Swift-Hook (GPC), Roger Hunneman (NTC), Richard Foster (TTC), Billy Drummond (WBDC), Steve Ardagh-Walter (WBDC), Laurence Parker (GCCV), Tony Vickers (LAF)

Also present: Tom Hayward (BBOWT), Jamie Neaves (Natural England), Sue Ellis (WB Heritage Forum)

Secretary: Jamie Neaves took notes as the Clerk was absent

	Action
<p>1 PUBLIC SESSION</p> <p>Jamie Neaves Chair – sadly due to a change in work circumstances I will be stepping down as Chair at the end of the meeting. Thank you all for welcoming me to the commission and I have enjoyed my short time as Chair. Availability of Chair position to be advertised when minutes are disseminated for a vote at the next meeting.</p> <p>Fraser Harding here for Park Run requests. Agreed that agenda item 6 to be discussed at the beginning of the meeting.</p> <p>Request from Fraser Harding for an additional Park Run event on Christmas Day 2022. Run to follow same protocols as normal runs, and will follow the Saturday 24th December run. Usually these runs are less well attended than normal events, with anecdotally a 50% reduction.</p> <p>Commission referred to other events, nothing else planned in the near future. The Commission welcomes Park Run’s engagement and presence at the meeting to discuss the request.</p> <p>Ken proposed to accept the request that a Park Run even be allowed on Christmas Day 2022, XXX seconded, vote unanimous in favour.</p> <p>2nd request raised by Fraser Harding; to raise the suggestion that dogs may be allowed to join Park Run in the future, how this might work and what the process for permission would be if granted. Permission for dogs was not sought in initial process.</p> <p>CA: largest user group of the commons are dog walkers, probably no difference if they are on the run or not, especially as they will be on leads and on the paths.</p> <p>Fraser: the restrictions on dogs for Park Run are on the website, and have been forwarded to Lisa for dissemination with the minutes. In summary dogs must be on a short handheld non-retractable lead. Harness leads not allowed.</p>	

	Action
<p>Derek raised that unless a dog is used to running then there is a risk they may not keep running, may stop and become a trip hazard. Commission agrees that health and safety aspects are Park Runs responsibility. Claudia: no issues with the proposal. Ken: issue with not clearing up muck. Fraser: not an explicit rule for Park Run in general but could be emphasised for Greenham particularly with SSSI status. Ken proposed that the commission withdraw any previous issues with dogs being allowed on Park Run, Chris seconded, vote unanimous in favour. JN: Permission would need to be sought for SSSI consent through BBOWT and then submitted to NE. Fraser Harding thanked the Commission and left.</p>	
<p>2 APOLOGIES Lisa Blake (GPC Clerk) Frank Huxtable (Commoner) John Thorogood (Commoner) Tony Ferguson (Greenham Trust) Anne Johnson with regret has tendered her resignation from the commission. She has enjoyed her participation and hopes that her contribution to the discussions has been of value. We thank Anne for her contributions to the Commission and wish her all the best in the future.</p>	
<p>3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>No declarations</p>	
<p>4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Greenham and Crookham Common Commission Regulations – SE & GCCC Regulations Vote Email (Thanks to Sue Ellis, John Thorogood and Paul Hendry from Derek Cutt) <p>Conclusion of email vote to continue with the regulations process was in favour by 8 to 1. Sue: changes from DEFRA were cosmetic, the regulations have been updated to suit their changes and recommendations in regard to wording and grammar. The regulations will be advertised locally then submitted to DEFRA. Action for Sue, continue with advertising and provide email updates to Commission. Derek: thank you to everyone who has worked on the regulations.</p>	•

	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on leased grazing rights – TH No update from JN ○ Rights provision at Crookham Pools – PH Agenda item 5 ○ Car park earnings Tom: Average count is 50 cars in the control tower car park. Takings for the year were around £1300 for the weekdays and £1500 for weekends, just under £3000 a year. 	
<p><u>Matters for decision and presentation</u></p> <p>5 REGARDING CROOKHAM POOLS COMMON LAND, AS OUTLINED IN SECTION 3(3) OF GREENHAM AND CROOKHAM COMMONS ACT 2002. No further information from Council, apologies from Paul</p>	
<p>6 GCCC MEETING DATES PARK RUN REQUEST TO HOLD A ONE OFF CHRISTMAS DAY RUN ON GREENHAM COMMON Discussed in Public session</p>	
<p>7 TO DISCUSS LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT (AND 8) There have been recent instances of cattle escaping on the golf course and other areas associated with Bowdown House. Thanks to Chris and other commoners for responding to and retrieving escaped cattle. There have been discussions with other landowners, and the requirements are that neighbouring properties are responsible for fencing out cattle. BBOWT happy to write to neighbours to remind them of this. Discussion on what to do if a member of the public finds an escaped animal. The council or 999 should be called, and there is a chain of contacts that goes through to the commoners. Information is on the website.</p>	
<p>9 TO DISCUSS LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT (AND 8)</p>	

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<p>Raised by Chris. More and more gorse across the common and concerns from graziers. Over time the space for grazing and public has been reduced. There hasn't been burning recently but there was historically.</p> <p>Tom: no burning recently due to covid and warm spring. Planned works this winter with contractors booked in for gorse removal, including in roam zones. Will be cut and collect/reciprocal cutting. BBOWT to redistribute gorse document.</p>	
<p>10 DETERMINE WHO UPDATES THE COMMONS REGISTER</p> <p>Tom raised. Some discussion as to who is responsible, some thought the council but that is not the case. The council had previously helped whilst the commission did not have the capacity, but it is the commissions responsibility and also to do so under personal data legislation. Some commoners/those with leased rights not registered. Sue has offered to help resolve the commons register updates once she has dealt with the regulations.</p>	
<p>11 GNB MEASURES FOR 2023 – FOR APPROVAL</p> <p>Tom provided documents for review which were distributed with the agenda. Police logo has been removed from signage, roam zones highlighted and the amber/red scheme removed and replaced with message to remain on paths.</p> <p>Chris had concerns from Parish council and asked if these had been taken on board. Tom: main concerns with use of firebreaks as a path or not. Conservation committee will meet to discuss findings on bird breeding territories around firebreaks to review if some can be 'opened up' as paths (i.e. signs asking people not to use them wont be put up). X proposed to accept the current proposals from BBOWT regarding GNB measures, x seconded, vote unanimous in approval.</p> <p>Agreed to review this annually, and conservation committee to report recommendations of firebreak use at next meeting.</p> <p>Discussion on evidence behind measures. The trend in bird nesting numbers is positive, and that the measures are suggestions not restrictions.</p>	
<p>12 GIGACLEAR REQUEST FOR LAYING CABLES – FOR APPROVAL</p> <p>Tom and Paul: request for approval of route over the common for high speed internet connection as currently poor internet. Ground work will be done by XXXX (paul knows) then gigaclear put in the utility.</p> <p>Chris proposed accept the route suggested by BBOWT, X seconded, vote unanimous in favour.</p>	
<p>13 LAND MANAGEMENT REPORT</p> <p>Thanks to BBOWT for compiling report, no comments</p>	
<p>14 SEASONAL WARDENS REPORT</p> <p>Thanks to hard work of seasonal wardens.</p>	

	Action
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the conservation committee, Derek Cutt is a member, not Derek Emes. And chaired by Tom Hayward – to be updated • Accounts. Next Chair to work with Lisa on getting accounts available online • 30 house development on the golf course, this may involve a small area of common for access. No updates but the developers will have to present this to the Commission. • Paul, apologies for no update on Crookham Pools • Chris: Saturday the gate was shut due to security company error. Thanks to Ken who opened the gate. Graziers are usually called upon to sort out such issues. The control tower and park run have now been given the access code for the gate. Padlock can be quite tricky to open and Tom will take a look at it. • Commission dates: the 10th November 2023 is a Friday and needs to be changed to the 9th November • Commission will endeavour to host future meetings at Thatcham Council to allow for hybrid meetings 	