

**Minutes of
Greenham & Crookham Commons Commission Meeting
Tuesday 30th January 2024: 7pm
In the Greenham Common Control Tower**

Commissioners	Sue Ellis (WBHF & Chairman), Ken Neal (Commoner and Vice Chairman), Derek Cutt (Commoner), Michael Williams (Commoner), Claudia Sievers (Commoner), Frank Huxtable (Commoner), John Thorogood (Commoner), Tony Ferguson (Greenham Trust), Roger Hunneman (NTC), Tony Vickers (LAF),
WBDC Appointed Officer	Paul Hendry (WBDC)
Secretary	Kim Lloyd (Greenham Parish Council Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer)
Advisors	Tom Hayward (BBOWT),

1. No public present.
2. Apologies from Nicole Rorie, Lawrence Parker, Julian Swift-Hook.
3. No declarations of interest raised apart from John Thorogood who is a member of the Newbury and Crookham Golf Club.
4. The Minutes of 17th October 2023 were approved by all.

Matters Arisen –

Commoners Register /Election

Sue Ellis reported that a letter to the Commoners regarding leasing rights and the 2024 Election arrangements had been posted to all Commoners on 29/01. Within the letter their full contact details have been requested, along with the details of any third parties that lease on the Common. This contact information will then be updated on the register ready for the Elections in April.

Sue Ellis has a timescale of the Election process which will be circulated to everyone.

ACTION: Sue Ellis to receive updated contacted details.

Crookham Pools

It was found previously that the Crookham Pools were omitted from the original Commons Act because of conservation work needed, which has since been carried out. Sue has written to Sarah Clarke at WBC Legal asking for a decision to include the pools in the Commons Act, a legal representative at WBC is working on this. It was noted by Paul Hendry that this was not WBC highest priority so may take some time to complete.

Matters for Decision and presentation

5. Greenham & Crookham Commons Commission Regulations.

Sue Ellis reported that after constant chasing to Defra, it was promised that the GCCC Regulations update was with the legal team and that the Commission should hear something by the end of January. Sue Ellis said if it doesn't get completed soon, she will write to the Secretary of State. These final Regulations will be published on the website, and no other processes will be required, once Defra has approved them. It was agreed that once the Regulations are approved, they should be reviewed at future Governance Committee meetings to ensure they are adhered to.

ACTION: SE to continue to pursue Defra.

6. Reptile and Small Mammals Project

Tom Hayward reported that the reptile and small mammals' tunnels project is going well. The section 38 consent has been applied for a small reptile fence. An informal consultation had taken place and been advertised, from this consultation three supportive representations were received, with some questions that had since been satisfied.

7. West Berkshire Council Budget Cuts – Proposal to remove dog waste bins on the Common, from 15 to 8.

Members have mixed views and opinions on dog waste bins. It was agreed that bins should stay for the foreseeable future, but some could be removed that are not used as much.

The Clerk is in discussion with WBC contractors due to overflowing dog waste bins. The Tower Manager has been putting out extra bin liners for dog waste, and the Tower Café volunteers have been receiving complaints regarding the bins that are overflowing. Extra notices have been posted reminding café users to use the litter bins for disposable cups etc and to call WBC if dog waste bins are overflowing as this is the responsibility of WBC - and not the Tower Staff and Parish Council.

An educational initiative will be investigated by WBC to campaign to encourage dog walkers to pick up after their dog and take the waste home to dispose, and to also not leave it on the ground or hanging from trees in bags. Tom Hayward said BBOWT could work with WBC on this initiative by sending messages out to the dog walkers through their wardens.

The Commission members agreed that they support to encourage responsible users of the common in taking their dog waste home.

Commercial dog walkers were also discussed, regarding the number of dogs walked by one person. It was felt that one person could not pick up all the dog waste. A byelaw would have to be changed for this to be stopped on the Common.

ACTION: The current situation of overflowing dog waste is being monitored by the Clerk and WBC. BBOWT will work with WBC on an educational campaign.
Sue Ellis and Tom Hayward will review what bins, (if any) could be removed if not used.

8. **80th Anniversary of D-Day Landings - 6 June 2024**

An email from Julian Swift-Hook reported on a celebration that Newbury TC are coordinating where the event will take place at the Greenham Control Tower. GCCC give their consent to this event. Roger Stace BBOWT has been involved in the discussion. Sue Ellis will help publish the event on the GCCC website.

9. **Greenham 25th Anniversary – April 2025**

Tom Hayward said it would be good to co-ordinate an event next year to mark the date. It was asked from the members to have a think of what could be done and come back to the April meeting with some suggestions.

ACTION: All

10. **Greenham Parish Assembly – 25th April 2024**

This is a meeting for the Greenham parishioners and is not a Parish Council meeting, it is to showcase what Greenham Parish has to offer, one of its assets being the Control Tower and the Common. Sue Ellis confirmed that she would deliver a talk on the Commission at the assembly. Tom Hayward confirmed that he would deliver a talk on BBOWT. The Clerk asked for everyone to save the date.

Additional papers and reports

11. **Committee reports**

Land Management Report was circulated before the meeting, no questions were raised.

- Tom Hayward reported that controlled successful gorse burns were currently happening. However, someone had set fire to a patch of gorse and the fire brigade were called out but it was burnt out on arrival, as always fire cuts are in situ to help with this concern.
- A team of volunteers had worked on repairing gates, the GCCC thanked the volunteers for this.
- Cattle Grips had also been cleared with additional grips added.

12. **AOB**

- A reminder for all graziers to have a permit in their vehicles when checking their cattle to show they are authorised to be on the Common.

ACTION: Sue Ellis and Tom Hayward will work together on this to ensure all graziers have a permit.

- It was reported that a gathering of people is increasing on Old Thornford.Road where a caravan is in situ, It was said that WBC are aware of this and monitoring

ACTION: Paul Hendry will monitor the situation.

- It was raised that when the Charity Fun Run took place on the Common were there enough facilities for them?

ACTION: Tom Hayward will feedback information in the next meeting regarding facilities.

- The Beating of the Bounds will be organised for September when the Thatcham Festival is taking place, it was agreed that more advertisement is needed.

ACTION: Ken Neal to keep GCCC and GPC up to date on the event

13. Date of the next meeting in the Greenham Control Tower at 7pm.

- 23rd April
- 23rd July
- October