

Greenham & Crookham Common Commission Meeting

DRAFT Minutes of Thursday 12th May 2026: 7pm
West Berkshire Council Offices, Market Street, Newbury RG14 5LD
in the Roger Croft Room

Commissioners Present

Chris Austin (Commoner), Sharon Bovingdon (Local Access Forum), Julian Cooper (BBOWT), Judith Curson (Commoner) – Remote attendance, Derek Cutt (Commoner), Sue Ellis (WBHF & Chairman), Tony Ferguson (Greenham Trust) – Remote attendance, James Field (Commoner), Tom Hayward (BBOWT), Paul Hendry (WBDC), Roger Hunneman (NTC), Frank Huxtable (Commoner), John Parker (Conservation Volunteers), Simon Pike (TTC), Nicole Rorie (Commoner), Claudia Sievers (Commoner) – Remote attendance

Secretary: Jon Davey

Agenda

1. Apologies

Billy Drummond, Roger Hunneman, Sally-Ann Jay, Steve Proud

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations over and above those registered already

3. Public Session

A member of the public spoke and congratulated BBOWT on their management of the gauze bush over the winter, reducing the number of cows over winter months allowing

the grass and flowers to grow. The cows that grazed on the gauze saved 25/30 tons in feed and so if they would like those same cows back next year then they could be made available.

4. Minutes of the last meeting 7th October 2025 and Matters Arising

Actions:

- Tom Hayward advised that he is preparing a request for funding from Greenham Parish Council for the Control Tower Car Park gate
- Sue Ellis & Paul Hendry are working on this Crookham Pools Common Land is adopted into the Commons. Work in progress - almost there.

5. Gorse monitoring and removal (TH/SP)

Tom Hayward reported that they had mapped 9 hectares of gauze being removed and 20 hectares mown with tractors, allowing the grass to grow and heather to come through. Focus this year will be on big blocks, outside the nesting season and edging later in the year. Aim is to have 3 year cycles to manage the commons most effectively. There was talk of scraping but Natural England prefers that not to be done. Chris Austin mentioned the thorn bushes could do with some trimming back.

6. SSSI permissions for Parkruns (TH)

It was felt by all concerned that the Park Run had been managed very well and the commission was supportive of another 3 year licence request being submitted to Natural England. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Creative Commons Project – request for support (SE/TH)

Julian Cooper was happy to work with 101 after the experience last year. As long as the arts were in keeping with and not damaging to the environment. If it encouraged the public to ask questions about the environment and provided an education piece then BBOWT were supportive of helping 101 with their grant application process. AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Committee reports

The key action from the Governance Committee meetings was to ensure they make use of the better mapping tools that are available and use them to meet any legal obligations.

9. AOB

Chris Austin requested a hectare of land be made available, from July through to September, to ensure the yearlings are not impregnated by the bull as it is not healthy for them to be in calf so young.

Paul Hendry asked if anyone had noticed any issues with too many pheasants. Others had not.

10. Next meeting date: Tuesday 21st July

The meeting closed at 7:55pm