

BLAXHALL COMMONS AND OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

MINUTES OF TRUSTEES' MEETING

Saturday 14th October 2023 at 4:00pm

Vine Cottage

1. *Attendance:* Andrew Derrick, Trustee (in the chair)
Rosy Thornton, Trustee
Mike Livesey, Trustee and Treasurer
Eve Rossor, Trustee and Hon Secretary
Karen Baker, PC nominated Trustee
Miranda Barclay, St Peter's Church, Blaxhall
Joy Shaw, Blaxhall Tree Warden
2. *Apologies:* Mark Oakley, PC nominated Trustee
3. *Minutes of the meeting of 26th August 2023:* These were agreed as correct, and will be put on the website.
4. *Matters arising:* Karen will contact Jasper's cousin about a plaque for the bench at the Pightle. One payment is outstanding on allotment licence fees, Eve will follow up. **Action: Eve**
5. *Finance report:* Mike reported that the Trust had received payments from the National Grid, via Mark's company (acting as facilitating solicitors): £110 (for the wayleave payment) and £800 (of which £500 was a one-off goodwill payment from NG and £300 a donation from Mark's company). Mark was thanked for his efforts and generous support. Money in the bank was £3,849.32 and cash £204.23, total £4,053.55.
6. *Parish Council meeting Nov. 1st:* Rosy had sent Jo Peters a background paper setting out the case for a regular donation to BCOST from the PC. This will be discussed at the meeting on November 1st, which Rosy, Karen and Mark can attend.
7. *Insurance and employers' liability:* In response to her enquiry with NFU about removing employers' liability, Eve had received a reply stating that this would be illegal, and that the Trust could be subject to fines. Rosy advised that this was not correct; the Charity Commission and the NCVO say that this is not a

requirement, though desirable. It was considered that our current financial position justified removal of this cover, at least for the time being. **Action: Eve to forward the email from NFU to Rosy, who will reply.**

8. *Jasper's Pightle*: Most of the cut bracken had been raked, and another session should complete it. Rosy, Andrew and Eve to do this on 15th October, as well as starting the gorse thinning process (due by the end of 2024).

Wildlife survey- Eve had sent details of the JP management plan to Phil Smith of SWT, who may be able to survey both flora and fauna.

9. *Stone Common*: The autumn bracken cut had not yet taken place. Joy was trying to contact the Kerrs about possible help. Eve has a contact with the farm and will also make enquiries. **Action: Joy and Eve.**

Shed on allotment 31. Trudy (Flint Cottage) would like to repair this and use it for storing gardening equipment. This was agreed, but it should be formalised by written consent. **Action: Rosy to draft a response for Eve to send to Trudy.**

10. *Litter Pick*: This would take place in the week of 28th October-5 November. Eve to organise the equipment and list of roads, which will be left on the table at the back door of Vine Cottage.

11. *Trustees and local support*: Andrew's term of office had expired. He suggested that he resign so that the Trust could appoint another active trustee, ideally from Stone Common. He will continue to attend meetings and be fully involved in the Trust, but would be unable to chair. It was agreed that Rosy take over the secretarial role and Eve chair future meetings. Andrew will design a flyer advertising for a trustee and for general support, which Eve will distribute at SC and place on the notice board there. **Action: Andrew and Eve.**

Regarding PC renomination of Mark and Karen, Eve would email Graham Bowles (cc Jo Peters) asking for formal confirmation of their reappointment. **Action: Eve.**

12. *AOB*: Trustees agreed with Miranda and Joy that we should pool resources for work parties, and try and ensure that dates do not clash. The churchyard has been cut by Ray Scopes and Joy in the past, with Joy and her sheep managing over two-thirds of the area. She is able to strim, but would welcome help with raking up the grass. It was agreed that a work party would be convened on Saturday October 28th (1-3pm).

Village Hall and Playing Fields: A work party had been arranged for Saturday 25th November (1-3pm), when the trees will be mulched and daffodil bulbs planted. Volunteers should bring trowels and gloves, and wheelbarrows if possible.

Stone Common: A work party is planned for Sunday November 19th (1-3pm) to rake bracken and clear fences. Gloves, wire cutters and secateurs were needed as well as rakes. Further work parties were arranged for Wednesday December 27th and Monday January 1st (1-3pm), to gap fill the hedge planted last year and tidy up, including starting to remove fencing. Wiggy Keeble will transport a load of manure donated by Trudy and Stacey, and leave it in the area between Molly's old allotment and the field of bracken. The Trustees expressed their gratitude to Wiggy, Trudy and Stacey, and to Joy for organising it. **Action: Eve and Rosy to liaise about emailing supporters, advertising work parties on our website, sending text to Shane for the village newsletter and posting details on the Blaxhall Facebook group.**

13. *Date of next meeting:* Saturday 9th December 4pm at 2 Ship Cottages.

Dates for 2024:

February 10

April 13

June 8

August 10

October 12

December 14