

# **BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST**

Minutes of the Trustees' meeting

Saturday 28 February 2026

4pm 1-2 Stone Common Cottages

Attendance: Karen Baker – PC-nominated Trustee  
Toby Bushill -Trustee  
Andrew Derrick - Trustee  
Eve Rossor - Trustee and secretary  
Joy Shaw - Blaxhall tree warden  
Rosy Thornton -Trustee

Apologies: Michelle Flowers - Trustee  
Mark Oakley - PC-nominated Trustee

## *1. Minutes of the meeting of 14 December 2025*

These were approved and will be added to the website.

## *2. Matters arising*

It was noted with great sadness that Rodney West had died on 13 February. His considerable contribution to BCOST and its work was put on record.

Toby noted that the Trust had received the grant from East Suffolk Council's Enabling Communities fund, and sheep hurdles have been purchased. Eve has completed and returned the East Suffolk monitoring form.

Joy noted that the area rented by David Moyes was being well maintained, with the environment in mind.

## *3. DEI and safeguarding policies*

Rosy presented a second draft of the DEI policy and Michelle's draft of the safeguarding policy. There was some discussion about the level of detail

needed, with agreement that this needed to be adequate to comply with grant-making and statutory bodies' criteria. The DEI policy was agreed and will be posted on the website. *Actions:* Rosy to check with Michelle about the level of knowledge needed for the safeguarding policy and the degree of training needed for trustees. Andrew to post DEI policy on website.

#### 4. *Planning for the AGM, 18 April 2026*

The AGM will start at 2.30, the order of the agenda depending on whether the speaker wishes to go first. Announcements should include recording our sorrow at the death of Rodney West, and our gratitude for his contribution, thanks to the PC for their annual grant and thanks to Mark, who had indicated a wish to step down as PC-nominated trustee, thereby creating a vacancy. *Actions:* Eve to provide a screen and contact Eddie Bathgate about a house martin talk. Rosy to prepare annual report. Toby to prepare finance report.

#### 5. *Future grant applications*

Trustees discussed how best to frame an application to the Sizewell Community fund, based on facilitating easy access to Stone Common. The design of a bench and table, overlooking the planted tree area, with an accessible approach was discussed. It was noted that the track up to Prevost's Path is increasingly difficult for pedestrians and lower based cars. It will need levelling and filling, using appropriate materials and finishes. *Action:* Eve to contact Kerway for advice and possible quote. All to look at the Sizewell community grant timescale and criteria, with the next tranche being made available in May.

Improving access to Jasper's Pightle was also discussed. As the uneven surrounding areas are owned by other bodies, it was agreed that improving access was impractical.

#### 6. *PC-nominated trustee*

It was agreed that this was a matter for the Parish Council to lead on, but it was also suggested that Joy, as Blaxhall tree warden and regular attender at PC and BCOST meetings, could cover the role at least in the short term. *Action:* to be raised at the next PC meeting on Wednesday 4 March.

### 7. *Stone Common update*

A small amount of hedge planting needs to be completed, which Joy will do in March. Three redstart nest boxes have been provided for Stone Common, which Neil Flowers has kindly agreed to put up. Bruce Kerr to be invited to the AGM.

### 8. *Jasper's Pightle update*

The next work party is on 15 March, continuing clearance around the hedging and removing barbed wire. *Action:* Eve to contact Laurence Potter about repairing and reinstating the owl box and putting up three redstart boxes. Eve to check whether the fallen log is a problem for access.

### 9. *AOB*

Toby noted fly tipping at Langham Road triangle and had notified the local authority. Litter pick: Eve to organise equipment for 20<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> March.

Date of the next meetings: AGM Saturday 18 April

Trustees meeting Saturday 13 June