

BLAXHALL COMMONS and OPEN SPACES CHARITABLE TRUST

Minutes of an extraordinary meeting of Trustees

Sunday 3 May 2026 at 4:00 pm

Vine Cottage

Attendance: Toby Bushill – Trustee and Hon Treasurer
Andrew Derrick – Trustee (chairing)
Karen Baker – Trustee
Michelle Flowers – Trustee
Eve Rossor – Trustee and Hon Secretary
Rosy Thornton – Trustee

Apologies: Joy Shaw – Blaxhall Tree Warden

1. *Minutes of the meeting of 28 February*

These were agreed as correct and will be put on the website.

2. *Matters Arising*

It was understood that Mark's replacement as PC-nominated Trustee was to be discussed at the next PC meeting on 6 May.

It was reported that Andrew and Eve had attended the memorial gathering for Rodney West.

The AGM had taken place on 18 April. Thanks were recorded to Joy for the excellent picture show of Blaxhall nature through the year. Harriet Lawson raised the issue of the Sizewell C Community Fund, helpfully passing on the name of a person who can be consulted about applications prior to submission. The Trust said that an application to the Fund will be discussed at a future meeting.

3. *Sizewell C Community Fund*

The Trustees agreed that an application should be put in for the resurfacing of the track to Prevost's Path to make it more accessible for vehicles and those with limited mobility. A quote had already been obtained for this work using natural material beyond the area by Shane's house. The mown area up to the bonfire needs smoothing down to make access easier for those with limited mobility; it was agreed this could be done by volunteers at a work party, using a roller (possibly the one on site?).

The design of a bench and seats was discussed. The options provided by Nelson Potter are a rectangular bench or circular with more easily accessed seats (£350 approx inc VAT).

Joy has suggested that the Trust should have a bird hide overlooking the open area which would be accessible to all. It was agreed that the Trustees will look at possible options including asking Nelson Potter, and local craftsmen to see if they can make one. Michelle has spare paving slabs which could form the base, and/or be placed under the bench to prevent or slow down rotting.

Bat boxes were also mentioned, to target woodland species. Eve to get costs on these.

Actions: Create a plan for the application: Toby to produce a first draft. Eve to find costs on bat boxes. Consult with Stone Common residents and those using the area. Bring back to the next Trustees' meeting on 13 June.

4. *Allotments*

It was noted that there are now three people on the waiting list for an allotment at Stone Common. The possibilities of freeing up existing allotments, or parts of allotments, were discussed.

Allotments 21-25: As a new resident wants to keep goats, it was suggested that David Moyes might share, or allow the area currently covered in bracken to be used. For the future, there is a need to check whether he is intending to renew next year.

Allotment 28: It was noted that this is now part cultivated.

Allotments 26 and 27: It was observed that a line of marker posts has been put in but transversely to the line of the allotments and apparently unrelated to boundaries. The Trust had not been notified of these. It was agreed that Michelle will draft a letter noting that the allotments are not at present being cultivated (in line with the bespoke licence for these allotments which is for rewilding) and indicating that, as there is now pressure on allotment space, in future the licence for these allotments will be the standard one requiring cultivation or the keeping of livestock, and also that we need to meet to consider the defining of the boundaries.

Actions: Michelle to draft a letter. Eve to send this once agreed and arrange a meeting with the holders of allotments 26 and 27.

5. *Safeguarding policy*

Andrew had consolidated Michelle's draft. Re training: It was noted that the Trust has already specified that any child has to be accompanied by an adult, and that Level 1 training has been completed by all Trustees. Any further comments on the policy to go to Andrew, who will put the document on the website.

6. *Parish newsletter*

Rosy will send Shane a short update on our recent activities, including the redstart boxes and Joy's talk at the AGM.

7. Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 6 May, 7:00 pm

Andrew will attend to represent the Trust and report on our activities over the year.

8. *AOB*

There was no other business.

Date of next meeting: Saturday 13 June, 4:00 pm at Vine Cottage