

Stockland Parish Council

Minutes of the Turbaries Management Committee, held on Tuesday, 9th July 2024, at the Victory Hall.

- 1) **Public Participation Time:** None recorded. There were two members of the public present.
- 2) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public:**
No reasons stated.
- 3) **Record of those present / apologies for absence:**
Present: Cllr Peter Derryman (Chair), Cllr Anna Trott, Cllr Bryan Drew, Cllr Richard Switzer, Geoff Pearce, Robin Gundry, Jo Uffendell, Barbara Dunkley, Gemma Sparks (Managing Agent; Blackdown Consulting), Toby Taylor (RSPB), David Allen.

Apologies None recorded.
- 4) **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (s31 & 33 of the Localism Act 2011) or Personal/Prejudicial Interests (Code of Conduct, 2012):**
None stated.
- 5) **Turbaries Management Committee Minutes:**
Minutes of the minutes from the Tuesday 7th May 2024 were approved by the committee and signed.
- 6) **Flora and Fauna:**
Geoff Pearce reported that there had been 6 pairs of Tawney owls spotted in the spring. He also passed on news from Adrian Bayley (Devon Bat Conservation Research Group) who reported that 12 Brown Long-eared Bats were found roosting in a nest box on Shortmoor Turbary.
- 7) **Action Review Summary:**
 - a) Managing Agent's activities:
Funding sources and grants (including SFI and ELMS):
FiPL grant money must be claimed by March 2025
It is hard to find fencing contractors who are willing to quote for the work.
Japanese knotweed treatment to go ahead. There are also instances of Himalayan knotweed on the turbaries.
It is believed there are 11 ponies at Quantock and 4 at Bucehayes currently. There is lots of birch regrowth, and areas at the north end of Bucehayes have 4/5 foot tall growth. Scrub clearance is needed here.
The new HLS officer is Simon Richardson.
 - b) Recent meetings, those planned and potentially needed:
Nothing to report.
 - c) Work carried out, planned and potentially needed;
 - i) Bucehayes (AG00287440):

Peter Derryman to get quotes from two potential local contractors for provision of Clipex fencing for Bucehayes, Quantock and Shortmoor.
Ragwort found at Bucehayes to be removed by local volunteers. Also repairs to the fence line at Barn Park will be carried out by volunteers.

ii) Quantock (AG00287502);
See above, regarding fencing.

iii) Horner Hill (AG00291818);
Fencing replacement at Horner turbary is postponed.

iv) Shortmoor (AG00305847);
See above, regarding fencing.

v) Huntshayes (BPS);
The Japanese Knotweed growing on turbary land near Whitehayes will be treated by a contractor over a number of years.

vi) Shore Bottom (BPS):
Nothing new reported.

7) Correspondence and Communications

None Reported.

8) Items of Future Business for the next agenda:

FiPL funding.

Fencing replacement at Horner.

Asking Claire Holgate about putting the turbary film on the PC website.

Richard Switzer
Chair, Stockland Parish Council,

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