Stockland Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Turbaries Management Committee held in Stockland Victory Hall on Wednesday, 20th December, 2019 at 2pm.

1) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f); There were no members of the public present.
2) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public**. There were no confidential items[Public Bodies(Admission to Meetings Act) 1960].
3) **To record those Present/Apologies for absence** D Allen (chair); Cllrs Drew, Griffiths, Learmouth and Amanda Thompkins; Geoff Pearce (DBW&P) and Roland Stonex(FWAG) were welcomed to the meeting; in attendance Ken Pearson (PC Clerk); apologies from Alasdair Bruce (resident); Paul Spencer (resident) Toby Taylor (RSPB); Tim Youngs **(**AONB Manager) and Justin Gillett (Natural England).
4) **Declarations of Interest**: There were no declarations of any interests.
5) **Turbaries Management Committee Minutes**- resolved to note that the draft Minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 6th November were confirmed and signed by the Council on the 26th November.
6) **Action Review Summary**: to receive and review the following items
   i) **Higher Level Stewardship and Basic Payment Schemes (HLS and BPS);** resolve to receive updates on; BPS and HLS payments and outstanding issues; extensions paperwork at Bucehayes, Horner and Quantock are required by end of December and still not received
   ii) **The Draft Woodland Management Plan, authored by Roland Stonex was presented and any amendments sought.**

With the extensions to the HLS schemes, Woodland is not counted for payment unless it is of 3h or more and then paid at £100/h.p.a, if it is managed over a period of time (5 years), as part of a Plan. A Felling Licence is required and included as part of the Plan, if it is over a minimum amount; Ash Die Back(ADB) is expected to be covered by this Plan and requires an Annual Inspection and work to be carried out via a contracted organisation with the Felling Licence. Work that attracts grant includes; development of wood pasture, removal of invasives, coppicing, managing scrub, opening up Access, Power Lines kept clear.
The following maps were looked at to confirm details;
Map 7; Power Line clearance; Map 8, Quantock, green areas show woodland, purple areas show ancient or replanted; coppice north of new pond, with scrub clearance, open up access along new Bridleway; Map9, Shortmoor, requires coppicing, clearing areas, thinning and managing scrub; Map 10, Shorebottom, requires balsam pulling and general removal of invasives; Map 11, Horner, develop the wood pasture and open up along Permissive Path; request Cotley Hunt to assist with steps in Path and Bridleway.
The Amended Plan will be forwarded to the Forestry Commission for approval and a grant to pay for the work will be invoiced. Depending on what decisions are made over all the schemes, it may be best to keep HLS for the Turbaries and Countryside Stewardship for the WMP. The amended WMP was approved by the Cllrs present.

7) **Woods for Water, FWAG scheme**; resolved to note that these schemes are, in principle, available for farmers wanting to plant trees so not really open to the Turbaries; also there are grants for slowing rivers down, and again, not necessarily on Turbary Land.

8) Items of Future Business for the next Agenda. None

Signed ……21st January, 2020
Chairman; Meeting closed at 3.45pm