

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Stockland Parish Council Turbaries Management Committee Tuesday, 6^h May 2025 @ 1930 hrs, Victory Hall, Stockland.

- 1) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f): 15 minutes in length with each person to speak once only, for no longer than 3 minutes, or shorter, at the discretion of the chairperson:

No members of the public were present.

- 2) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public:** To agree any items to be dealt with after the public and press have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted [Public Bodies(Admission to Meetings Act) 1960]. No items excluded.

- 3) **To record those present / apologies for absence;** and to consider whether to approve the reasons given (Cllrs only).

Present: Cllr Peter Derryman (Chair), Cllr Richard Switzer, Cllr Anna Trott, Barbara Dunkley, Rebecca Chance, Gemma Sparks (Managing Agent Blackdown Consulting), Jo Uffendell, Toby Taylor (RSPB), Damian Clay (Clerk).

Apologies: Cllr Bryan Drew, Dr David Allen.

- 4) **Declarations of Interest:** All members to declare any interests they have in agenda items that accord with any 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:** To confirm and sign the draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2025.
The minutes were duly signed.

- 6) **'Team Turbaries' Tools and Grant from BHNL:**
The grant funding for the tools has been received in the Parish Council bank account.

- 7) **Fauna and Flora updates.** General updates, news and noteworthy observations of fauna and flora on the turbaries:
A Cuckoo has been heard on several occasions by parishioners living in Shore Bottom.

- 8) **Action Review Summary:** to receive updates and review the following items:
 - a) **Managing Agent's activities.**

Gemma reported that HLS funding applications have been agreed for Shortmoor and Quantock for the 2025-26 financial year and the forms should arrive presently. Peter Youngman has indicated that Turbaries management work, the proposed boardwork and permissive paths works will be eligible for FiPL funding. If the quote for the FiPL funding work comes in above £5,000, then the FiPL application will need 3 quotes attached to it to meet regulatory requirements. February 26th 2026 is the cut off date for the work to be carried out.

Cllr Derryman to obtain quotes (Tom Purlin and John Parry have expressed an interest, so one more needs to be found).

A brief discussion of suitable materials to use to support the boardwalks over wet ground discounted mud blocks as unsuitable. Larch might be used.

b) **Funding sources and grants.**

There might be 'Access Funding' from EDDC available for other turbary work (RSPB has had this for the last 3 years). No other funding is available at the moment apart from the HLS and FiPL items mentioned above.

c) **Work carried out, planned and potentially needed.**

i) **Bucehayes (AG00287440);**

Fencing work is complete, and RSPB have 15 ponies available for grazing from next week. 4 ponies will be allocated to Bucehayes.

ii) **Quantock (AG00287502);**

It was decided that 7 ponies would be put to work on the Kennels Enclosure and Quantock. **Rebecca will check fencing and take before and after photographs.**

iii) **Horner Hill (AG00291818);**

Nothing reported or planned.

iv) **Shortmoor (AG00305847);**

Birch growth noted.

v) **Huntshayes (BPS & BHP175);**

Japanese Knotweed is being treated annually for 5 years.

vi) **Shore Bottom (BPS);**

Track coppicing is being carried out. **Need to set dates for 'balsam bashing'.**

d) **Path from Lillington Farm to Shorelake:**

Deferred for future action.

e) **Woodland Management Plan:**

This plan ends on 31/12/2025.

9) **Correspondence and Communications**

To receive updates and review the need for correspondence and communications:

The Committee resolved to provide Geoff Pearce with a card and a present of a book of high quality photographs of the Stockland Turbaries down the years, as a memento recognising the enormous contribution he has made to this Committee:

There being 3 Parish Cllrs present, they resolved to meet the cost of the book from PC funds (cost £50).

Cllr Switzer to write the card using wording received from Dr Allen.

(Geoff received the card and the book from Cllr Derryman a few days after this meeting and expressed his gratitude to the Committee).

Gemma to supply a copy of the digital map of the turbaries to the public members of the Committee for their information.

10) **Items of Future Business** for the next agenda:

Next Meeting 15th July 2025.

Meeting Closed at 2040 hrs

Peter Derryman
Chair, Stockland Parish Council Turbaries Committee

/ /2025