

STOCKLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Stockland Parish Council Turbaries Management Committee Tuesday, 5th August 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 Bryan Drew, Cllr Richard Switzer, Cllr Anna Trott, Dr David Allen, Rebecca Chance, Alan Coney, Barbara Dunkley, Desiree Fieldhouse, Simon Meers, Jo Uffendell, Gemma Sparks (Managing Agent Blackdown Consulting), Damian Clay (Clerk).

Apologies: Toby Taylor (RSPB).

- 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 6th May 2025.
The minutes were duly signed.

- 6) **Fauna and Flora updates.** General updates, news and noteworthy observations of fauna and flora on the turbaries:
Dr Allen reported a baby Dormouse spotted in Quantock in June; Grass Snake, Glow Worm, and 3 Silver-washed Fritillaries on Quantock in July. 8 Early Marsh Orchids spotted on Quantock their numbers are declining in the turbaries; Southern Hawk Weed reported growing on Horner Hill.

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

Gemma reported that FiPL funding applications for Shortmoor and Quantock for 2025-26 will open in September; the Natural England team has been reduced from 5 to 1 person. Most of the management work on these turbaries is covered by fixed payments by area, which is part of the FiPL agreements. The proposed boardwalk might also be included in the applications. Dr Allen, Simon Meers and Cllrs Drew and Trott to meet and measure the area so that quotes may be obtained from contractors.

FiPL could be extended again, but further funding is currently uncertain.

Ponies should be available from 2026-36.

The Kennels Enclosure is scrubbing up again.

The Woodland Management plan ends this year, and Gemma will look at what work is needed this September

b) Work carried out, planned and potentially needed.

i) Bucehayes (AG00287440);

Jo has carried out clearing Ragwort from this turbary, and it is now looking good, but scrub is coming back.

ii) Quantock (AG00287502);

Jo has cleared scrub from around the pond and the bird hide. Cherry laurel reported at the Brimpit end – this would be around 2 days work to clear under the Woodland Management plan.

iii) Horner Hill (AG00291818);

As Robin Gundry has retired from the Committee, a contractor with a tractor and topper is now required. A large ash and some hazel need clearing (possible job for Toby/RSPB team?). A large ash tree has come down on the Ridge Route, which is now overgrown and hard to walk. The sign found lying on the ground needs to be reinstated.

iv) Shortmoor (AG00305847);

The gate needs reinstating so that the ponies can be used again. The work required is half a day for 2 men, and as this will be less than £500, the Cllrs present voted to have this work carried out.

v) Huntshayes (BPS & BHP175);

Japanese Knotweed is being treated annually for 5 years, treatment is now in the second year.

c) Shore Bottom (BPS);

There are trees leaning over the road in various places which need cutting down before winter. The ditch running through the turbary opposite Bay Cottage needs clearing, probably be 1 day's work for a contractor. Cllr Derryman to speak with the owner of Horners regarding getting their hedge cut. Some work on the turbary land on the right hand side of the road up to Hillcrest is also required.

8) Correspondence and Communications

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

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this Committee need to be updated to reflect the changes to the membership. The Clerk to circulate the new version to attendees for their comments.

9) Items of Future Business for the next agenda:

- End of Woodland Management Plan.

Next Meeting 4th November 2025.

Meeting Closed at 2055 hrs

Peter Derryman
Chair, Stockland Parish Council Turbaries Committee