Stockland Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Turbaries Management Committee held in Stockland Victory Hall on Wednesday 10th July from 4.30 until 6.30pm.

1) **To elect a Chair**; resolved to elect David Allen as chair of the meeting for the next year.
2) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f); There were no members of the public present.
3) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public**. There were no confidential items[Public Bodies(Admission to Meetings Act) 1960].
4) **To record those Present/Apologies for absence** D Allen (chair); Alasdair Bruce (resident); Cllrs R Griffiths and Amanda Thompkins; Geoff Pearce (DBW&P), Toby Taylor (RSPB); Paul Spencer (resident) was welcomed to the meeting; in attendance Ken Pearson (PC Clerk); and apologies from Cllr Drew, Derek Boyland (resident), Justin Gillett (NE)and Tim Youngs **(**AONB Manager); Ill-health of Derek Boyland has led to his presumed retirement, chair to write to thank for his services.
5) **Declarations of Interest**: There were no declarations of any interests.
6) **Turbaries Management Committee Minutes**-resolved to note that the draft Minutes of the meeting held on the Wednesday 13th March were confirmed and signed by the Council on the 26th March.
7) **Action Review Summary**: to receive and review the following items
   i) : **AONB Facilitation Fund**; resolved to request the chair to circulate the latest newsletter via the Clerk to the group.
   ii) . **Higher Level and Basic Payment Schemes (HLS and BPS);** resolved to receive any;
   - update on BPS and HLS payments and outstanding issues; the Clerk to contact S Machin to see if anything needs be sent off; and also to respond to Natural England's email on any response for the Shortmoor Extension to the Contract;
   - update on the Woodland Management Plan. Chair to make contact with Roland Stonex and circulate any updates

   iii) **Finance**; resolved to; receive the Clerk's report on the finances showing an amount of £12,535.06 available; with the following work to complete, Grazing the N enclosure on Bucehayes; Grazing (Brimpit enclosure) using ponies, invoice not due until September; agree tree removal on Horner with an extra day outstanding for £250; agree to pay £10.10 for pony nuts, agree to pay £200 for Topping at Horner Hill. Agree that the next meeting of the Council to receive an update as only 2 cllrs were present and therefore had no delegated powers to make financial decisions.

8) **River Yarty/Axe Valley Ecology and Water Quality Monitoring Forum**; resolved to note the Council agreed to a joint parishes meeting held on Thur 14th Mar with Hugh Davey of the Environment Agency to improve water quality and working together on projects across the river catchments of East Devon and that Cllr Maitland produced a report (sent out by email).

9) **Turbaries**; resolved to; receive an update on current work completed or scheduled; agree future work plans and finance for each site, identified in App 1 below.

10) **Communications**; resolved to; receive updates on the website link with the Stockland web, rather than on the new web, and volunteering opportunities not already covered including pond dredging.

11) Items of Future Business for the next Agenda and to note the date of the next meeting as Wednesday, 6th November, 2019 at 4pm. Design for Information Boards for 3 panels on next Council meeting.

Signed ……30th July, 2019

Chairman; Meeting closed at 6pm

Appendix 1. Notes for previous and future work programmes.

(i) Bucehayes, AG00287440 ends 31st Aug Seven Exmoor ponies have grazed the northern enclosure from 29.4.19 and are due to move tomorrow (11.7.19), giving a grazing pressure of 73 days. They have done a good job. A question is raised as to what should be done with the N extremity, left ungrazed. Consider whether to allow pony access here later this season.
The ponies are now in the southern enclosure which is also improving: cross-leaved heath increasing, but there is scattered scrub regrowth that will need removal in winter 19/20.

(ii) Quantock, AG00287502 ended May
Three Dartmoor ponies have grazed the "kennels" enclosure (from 30.5.19 until tomorrow, 11.7.19) but there remains substantial bracken/bramble that should be brush-cut this summer. Seek approval for two days contract work this summer, via RSPB.
Five Dartmoor ponies (to be joined by the other 3 tomorrow) have been grazing the main (Brimpit) enclosure, from 03 May. All goes well.
The pond is brim-full, covered in Duckweed and Watercress. A free source of Carp has been identified by Geoff and a September volunteer day could be useful.
Approval is sought from the PC to construct and install a bench and a stile as per quote received.
The Permissive Path linking the Public Footpaths' at Brimpit and Featherlake was inaugurated on Bryan Drew's Easter Monday walk.

(iii) SHORTMOOR
Three Dartmoor ponies grazed the open area from 29.4.10 to 30.5.19, giving a grazing pressure of 93 days.
The HLS Agreement ends in 2020; there are prospects for an extension (see above, under HLS/BPS).

(iv) HORNER
Spring work from a contractor to clear up and stabilise the broken Spruce, and by a different contractor to top the wood-pasture, have together been excellent. Two species of orchid are established here.
The open heathland poses a problem. The winter burn successfully killed off much of the excessive European Gorse which are now unsightly black stumps, but Downy Birch seedlings, bracken and brambles are re-establishing themselves to a point where summer brush-cutting may be necessary. David and Amanda to visit and advise the PC for allowance for summer contract.

(v) SHORE BOTTOM
Balsam pulling continues encouragingly, with numbers of volunteers increased through Paul Spencer's contacts. Future dates are 13 and 27 July , and 10th Aug.

(vi) HUNTSHAYES
No work done and no plans.