

Stockland Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Turbaries Management Committee held on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022, Victory Hall, from 4 until 6pm.

AGENDA

- 1) **To elect a chair of the Turbaries Management Committee for the next year;** David Allan would continue for another year and duly signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 2) **Public Participation Time** (SO 1e & f); A member of the public raised the issue of not knowing trees were being taken down so would need advanced notice for the public to improve communication and agreed to issue arrangements on Stockland Tree
- 3) **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]. **Item 7ii FWAG Agreement**, exempt information relating to Business Affairs of a person and Quotes from a Contractor.
- 4) **To record those Present/Apologies for absence;** D Allen (chair); Cllrs P Derryman, Drew, A Thompkins; T Taylor and F Dagget; (RSPB), R Gundry and R Switzer (Community) in attendance G Sparks(Managing Agent), Ken Pearson (PC Clerk); apologies received from Geoff Pearce (DBW&P and Tim Youngs (AONB Manager); no apologies received from R Pearse.
- 5) **Declarations of Interest:** No declarations received.
- 6) **Turbaries Management Committee Minutes**-resolved that the draft Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday **3rd November, 2021** were confirmed and signed by the Council on the 30th November, 2021.
- 7) **Action Review Summary:** to receive and review the following items:
 - i. **AONB Facilitation Fund;** resolved to receive an update from the scheme which continues. On 24th February an event was held on "Assessing grant schemes to achieve environmental outcomes".
 - ii. **Higher Level and Basic Payment Schemes (HLS and BPS);** the following action via FWAG to be dealt as a confidential Item as agreed under item 3) of the Agenda, exempt information relating to Business Affairs of a person and Quotes from a Contractor and agreed to the email from FWAG about the issues of possible double counting for the WMP; 'In order to drop out certain duplicate parcels within the Higher Tier Woodland Management Plan (AG986346) and the HLS Agreements; and agreed a meeting of cllrs and Managing Agent on Monday 4th April at 4pm at Victory Hall to put it in place.
 - iii. Note the Clerk's report on the finances showing an amount of **£17913.95** available for all work, with income of £10573.45 for this Financial Year and spending of £9780.02. Reduction in funding for each HLS extension.
 - iv. Information Panels; received a Project update from the Clerk, including the second board. Horner; to consider information relating to any further Trespassing and if a Powered Bike incursion can be affected by placing slatted Notice Boards as the Forestry Commission has erected and the costs required; received an update for the new Pond site which is maturing; received a report on the, allegedly, illegal camera has now been reported to the police as it overlooks a Bridleway.
- 8) **Turbaries;** resolved to; receive an update on current work completed or scheduled; agree future work plans and finance for each site, see **App 1**; Footpaths Update by Cllr A Thompkins and date for lost Footpaths to be rescinded.
- 9) **Communications;** resolve to; receive updates on the Parish Council and the Stockland Village Websites and Tree and volunteering opportunities not already covered; lookering was good. Imminent grazing needed.
- 10) Items of Future Business for the next Agenda; 6th July.

Signed
Chairperson;

26th April, 2022
Meeting closed at 6pm

APPENDIX 1.

Woodland Management (AG986346) Higher tier work included in each Turbary

(i) **BUCEHAYES**; (AG00287440) Summer grazing with 7 Exmoor ponies fully satisfactory, excellently well managed by Heather Burnett and her team. Grazing period 12-13 May to 8 Nov., alternating between N & S enclosures. Winter scrub clearance in N enclosure along W perimeter and in northern most area, on 8 and 22 Feb, under FiPL scheme. No Woodland Management work. Pony grazing in summer 2022 requires approval.

(ii) **QUANTOCK**(AG00287502); Summer grazing with 8 Dartmoor ponies from 13 May to 13 Oct (c. 1200 grazing days) on main block. 4 Dartmoors moved to 'Kennels' enclosure on 13 Oct, until 24 Nov. Heather's management deserves acknowledgement! No Winter work, neither Woodland ManPlan nor FiPL (day scheduled was transferred to Bucehayes). Grazing to be resumed, if approved.

(iii) **HORNER**(AG00291818); Woodland ManPlan work removed Cherry Laurel from steep slope above wood-pasture over three days in Jan (11th, 13th & 25th). An excellent job under difficult conditions!; FiPL work devoted to brush-cutting a section of the open hillside over 2 days (23 Jan.). An attempt by volunteers to burn the open heath was made on 28 Jan, with little success. Spring/Summer 2022 work needed includes topping of the wood-pasture by Robin Gundry, at a time to be decided. This to be scheduled as part of the Woodland ManPlan, as "managing open space". There is much more brush-cutting needed of the open heathland that could be included within a more ambitious FiPL, from April 22. There remains the possibility that we use the "no-fence" system here, using Devon Rubies via Ian Crowe. Agreed that this be investigated and costed.

(iv) **SHORTMOOR**(AG00305847); Autumn grazing of mire with 4 Dartmoor ponies (13 Oct to 24 Nov). A broken fence post needs repair. Woodland ManPlan work completed, focussing on selected removal of Holly within woodland area and thinning successional Birch at northern perimeter of open mire (25 Jan). Grazing in summer/autumn 22 is required.

(v) **HUNTSHAYES**(BPS); Woodland ManPlan work centred on removal of Cherry-laurel, now completed. There is some tidying up of work required in the mire opposite Primrose Cottage.

(vi) **SHORE BOTTOM**(BPS): Woodland ManPlan work nicely cleared some Rhododendron and much Cherry-laurel from bank below Mount Pleasant (20-21 Dec). Summer balsam pulling to be scheduled for 2022: dates suggested are Saturdays 18 June, 2 July, 16 July and 30 July. Advertise on Tree, please.