

Stockland Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Turbaries Management Committee held on Wednesday, 6th July, 2022, Victory Hall, from 4.30 until 6pm.

- 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.
- 2) **Resolve to exclude members of the press and public.** None raised.
- 3) **To record those Present/Apologies for absence** and consider whether to approve the reasons given (Cllrs only). Agreed that as Richard Switzer was elected as a Co-opted Cllr for the vacancy that existed, there was now no need to elect a further member from the Community. D Allen (chair); Cllrs P Derryman, I Morgan, R Switzer; T Taylor (RSPB), R Gundry (Community); in attendance Ken Pearson (PC Clerk); apologies received from Cllrs Drew and A Thompkins; Geoff Pearce (DBW&P) and Tim Youngs (AONB Manager).
- 4) **Declarations of Interest:** R Gundry (pecuniary, topping on Horner); T Taylor (pecuniary, RSPB contracts); R Switzer (pecuniary; work on Hide Roofing) (s31 & 33 of the Localism Act 2011).
- 5) **Turbaries Management Committee Minutes**-resolved to note that the draft Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th March were confirmed and signed by the Council on the 29th March, 2022.
- 6) **Action Review Summary:** to receive and review the following items:
 - i) **AONB Facilitation Fund**; resolved to agree the report from the Chair including An "Open Farm" visit to Dennings Down, Membury was held on 12th June; Wildflower meadows, Landowners could become donors of seed made available to those wishing to enhance species-richness of their receptor sites, (Contacts, Gavin Saunders and George Greenshields). A Blackdown "Farming Futures Roadshow" will give guidance on support including grant schemes. Coming to Yarcombe on 28th July (12.00-2:30pm, lunch included).
 - ii) **Higher Level and Basic Payment Schemes (HLS and BPS)**; to note that the proposed new Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship 2022 application for Quantock/Shortmoor 2 yrs of FiPL to cover it the scheme has been rejected by RPA/Defra and resolve what to now do.
 - a) Note the Clerk's report on the finances showing an amount of £14,495 available for all work, with income of £ 12403.42 for the past Financial Year and spending of £15041.16.
 - b) Information Panels; receive a Project update from the Clerk. Freeline to add Broadhayes.
 - c) Horner; to note that the trial using collared cattle had to be abandoned due to insufficient feed being available.
- 7) **Turbaries**; resolved to; receive an update on current work completed or scheduled; agreed future work plans and finance for each site, agreed processes to complete, see **App 1 below**; Bucehayes (AG00287440) birch regrowth both N & S; Dartmoor ponies on S atm so needs to move to N whilst birch being dealt with; Quantock (AG00287502); doing roof of hide at max of £200 with R Switzer; have new bat boxes; 6 Exmoor ponies also on Quantock need a quote of £500 max; post work needed; Horner Hill (AG00291818) hillside another trial on it with alpine tractor available from AONB in Autumn for Sept; D Allen to speak to Gavin (AONB) group to go to see it; Shortmoor (AG00305847); Huntshayes (BPS) no work here ; Shore Bottom (BPS) balsam work & bracken: Woodland Management (AG986346) none
- 8) **Communications**; resolve to; receive updates on the Parish Council and the Stockland Village Websites and Tree and volunteering opportunities not already covered. Try to move the Turbaries to the Parish Web.
- 9) Items of Future Business for the next Agenda; Wed 2nd November.

Signed
Chairperson;

26th July, 2022
Meeting closed at 6pm

APPENDIX 1.

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

(i) **BUCEHAYES**; (AG00287440); Seven Dartmoor ponies have been on southern enclosure since 8th June, need to move soon to northern enclosure; agreed that fence-line on Bucehayes needs to be checked/cleared/repared asap, by Peter, Rich & David; there is widespread re-growth of birch that needs control, include in FiPL proposal?

(ii) **QUANTOCK**(AG00287502); noted that post at Stile needs repair and path below pond needs clearance, to help looker's access; agreed Rich to undertake; the 'hides' roof also needs repairing; Rich volunteers to do this, provided materials/timber costs are refunded, Agreed to proceed to a ceiling of £200.

David reported that five Schwedler bat boxes had been installed by Adrian Bayley in the woodland strip just N of the pond on 16th May; ten boxes in total had been bought with a grant received from the Blackdowns AONB.

Geoff and David have put up two small exclusion plots using electrified tape with which to protect a population of the rare Early Marsh Orchid; seven Exmoor ponies arrived soon thereafter (8-9 June). Noted there is now extensive bracken developing near the Hide; this needs control; Toby said that Asulox, that has been approved again for use against bracken, is most effective when sprayed at 3rd frond extension; agreed to go ahead to a max cost of £495, taking note to avoid Osmunda; widespread scrub regrowth is noted. Include in FiPL?; Repair to fence-line/posts on Kennels enclosure also needed (FiPL)?.

(iii) **HORNER**(AG00291818); wood-pasture needs topping asap, hopefully by Robin; open hillside; the No-fence grazing trial with 4 Devon Rubies came to an end after 3 weeks (23 May-14th June) when Ian Crowe removed the cattle for their welfare, in the face of inadequate grazing; but the system was a success (arrival on the hoof up Kilderhayes Way, the local looking by Amanda, the water source) so that cattle remain a potential component of future management, noting it is a difficult site.

David reported that Ian Crowe agrees that clearing the whole hillside mechanically (with burning) to stimulate more *molinia* and to decrease Gorse/Birch is best next step (in Autumn 22) before repeating grazing (Spring 23) that would tackle birch regrowth.

One option would be to hire an Alpine tractor and flail, held on Blackdown Conservation Machinery Ring, at £40 per day. Agree to ask Gavin for demonstration before booking (Sept.). Hire might be part of FiPL application

(iv) **SHORTMOOR**(AG00305847); Some ponies will move to the enclosed open mire later in the season; five Schwedler bat boxes installed in woodland.

(v) **HUNTSHAYES**(BPS); No work and nothing to report.

(vi) **SHORE BOTTOM**(BPS): Balsam pulling has been done twice (18th June, 2nd July) and two further dates are scheduled (16th and 30th July); David to advertise on Tree to attract more volunteers; Peter raised the need to tackle bracken on the triangle & Toby agreed to plan for it to be sprayed when the Quantock work is done.