

DUNSFOLD PARISH COUNCIL

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Unit 3, The Orchard
Chiddingfold Road
Dunsfold
GU84PB

Minutes

Minutes of the Commons Committee of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.30pm in the Nugent Room, Winn Hall, Dunsfold.

Cllrs Present:

Cllr Roy Enticknap
Cllr Jane Wright
Cllr Ginny Fraser

Clerk to meeting: Julie Flenley, Locum Clerk & RFO

Public: 2

1. REPRESENTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A member of the public noted that the pond quotes to establish ecological and biodiversity aspects of the villages 9 ponds would need to include costs and an indicator of actions to be taken to manage them. Surveys needed to be carried out in May/June time when the ponds were most active and monitored through the year to understand seasonal issues.

The pond cutbacks had not yet been undertaken and should go ahead by the end of January before the swans begin to nest for the Spring. It was also noted that the toad patrol nets were being erected once more at the weekend.

Heathland Connections seminars had gone ahead and funding of up to £5,000 was available from March for ecology works.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Lynne Enticknap. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

- 4.1 None declared.
- 4.2 None declared.
- 4.3 None declared.

4. COMMONS COMMITTEE MINUTES

The draft Minutes of the Commons Committee of the Parish Council meeting held on the 18th November as circulated, were agreed unanimously as a true record for the Chair of the Commons Committee to sign.

5. REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

None noted.

6. TO AGREE TO SEEK QUOTES FOR GREAT CRESTED NEWT SURVEYS ON THE VILLAGE PONDS

Cllr Enticknap noted that a quote had been received from Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) for the pond studies and management plans. It was noted that the quote would need to be adjusted to reflect 9 eDNA kits, rather than one. Given the need to ask for a revised estimate from SWT, Cllr Enticknap proposed that the item be deferred to full council in February. Seconded by Cllr Wright and agreed unanimously. Cllr Enticknap to liaise with the Locum Clerk to request resubmission of the quote.

7. TO DISCUSS SIGNAGE AND BINS IN THE VILLAGE

Cllr Wright noted that the dog bins in the village were regularly at capacity with dog waste bags left in the vicinity of the bins which was unsightly and a health hazard. The bins were presently being emptied by Waverley Borough Council on a fortnightly rotation (bins located at the Sun Inn, War Memorial, village shop, bus stop and at the KGV playing fields). A potential new bin was discussed to alleviate the issue, but it was agreed that Cllr Wright would monitor the bins over the coming weeks to establish when they were being emptied and which ones were more frequently used.

The Locum Clerk also noted that the Environmental Services Team from Waverley could visit the village and spray paint dog waste pink which was not picked up in order to encourage residents to pick up after their dogs and had been an effective deterrent in other places in the borough. Locum Clerk to speak to the Environmental Services Team at Waverley to request their attendance in Dunsfold and report back at a future meeting.

8. HIMALAYN BALSALM REMOVAL

Cllr Wright noted that there was a group of residents who were interested in removing Himalayan Balsam in the village which was an annual problem and required removal in Spring to prevent further spreading. Cllr Enticknap noted that the plant was an irritant and could pose a threat to volunteers should they not be wearing personal protective equipment. Following this, Cllr Enticknap proposed that quotes be sought from contractors who were insured to remove the Balsam. Seconded by Cllr Wright. Agreed unanimously, Locum Clerk to seek quotes and approach the Friends of Dunsfold Common who may be willing to part fund the project.

9. ASH DIE-BACK & TREE SURVEYS

Cllr Enticknap noted that he had contact with an arboriculturist who could undertake the surveys and remove the problem trees. Councillors agreed that Cllr Enticknap would take this forward and provide quotes for a future meeting. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

Councillors also noted that there was a problem tree at Gratton Chase which needed felling. Councillors agreed to contact Joe Court to arrange felling. Locum Clerk to arrange.

10. NORTH GRATTON CHASE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA REPORT

The Locum Clerk noted that a report had been made about discharge into Gratton Chase Woods but nothing further had been heard from the Environment Agency. Locum Clerk to chase.

11. TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Cllr Wright noted that she had contact from a Fete Committee representative on the Fete in May. The request included having the Common grass cut sooner to ensure it was tidy, moving the Fete to in front of the village shop and assistance in covering the event insurance. It was agreed to add the items to the February full council agenda for resolution. Locum Clerk noted for the record.

12. TO RECEIVE ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

- Himalayan Basalt removal
- Ash die-back & tree surveys
- Pond surveys
- North Gratton Chase Wood Environmental Agency report

Date of next Commons Committee meeting

- 17th March 2025

Meeting closed at 8.27pm

Chair of the Commons Committee..... Dated.....