

NETTLEBED PARISH COUNCIL

CROCKER END GREEN COMMON MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Nettlebed Parish Council at
The Village Club, High Street, Nettlebed on
Tuesday 23rd April 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr Ondrej Žačko (OŽ)
Committee Members: Cllr Geoff Bond (GB) , Cllr James Leach (JL),
Beverley Phillips (BP), David Pinder (DP),
Jo Overment (JO)

In attendance: Jo Pugh, Clerk

Also present: 2 members of the public

MINUTES

001/24 To receive and accept apologies for Absence

There were none

002/24 Welcome and introductions

Cllr Ondrej Žačko welcomed everyone to the meeting and following a short introduction, invited fellow members to introduce themselves. All co-opted members declared a vested interest in the common and village life generally. The members of the public also expressed a willingness to contribute to the upkeep of the common by offering suggestions and labour.

OZ summarised that, in 2012 due to a prolonged period of minimal involvement by SODC, an agreement was made between SODC and NPC, for NPC to assume responsibility for the common. As per the agreement, NPC commissioned Future Nature to produce a Management Plan (MP) for the continued upkeep of the common. The MP recommends wildlife-friendly practices, such as mowing the green, managing woodlands, and controlling brambles. NPC is expected to adhere to the MP and submit an annual report to SODC, however, the cost of mowing and collecting the arisings is not feasible, and NPC relies on Richard Hunt's continued goodwill to mow the grass. Collaboration with Sonning Common Green Gym has been successful for bramble management.

003/24 Update on the items addressed since the last meeting

The CEGC Annual Report was submitted to SODC in January.

The Committee's recommendation to Full Council for a dog waste bin and information board to be sited on CEGC was rejected following strong opposition from residents.

004/24 Review the feedback from SODC on the Annual Report, previously circulated

The feedback from the Climate and Biodiversity Team, OCC was positive. Their response suggested that bramble and scrub clearance at the margins of the common be done, ideally between October and February to avoid disturbing nesting birds and to ensure fruits remain available for birds in the autumn. Following the mowing, the risings could be raked and set aside for composting to avoid the cost of removal – and be more environmentally friendly. Tim Sonnex offered to meet with the members to review areas that may be suitable for composting.

005/24 Discuss and agree next steps

- 1) Byelaw Signs - Three byelaw signs are to be installed on the common. **Action: JP** to source and cost recycled wood-effect posts, ideally 150x150x1500mm and circulate map showing suggested locations for byelaws to be sited. Send the full list of byelaws the CEGC Agreement and Tree Survey to all members. **Action: Members** to agree locations for byelaw signs via email and finalise the message or 'icons' for the posts eg. 'No litter'. Recommendations to be put to Full Council at the meeting on 4th June.
- 2) Promoting wildflowers on the common – BP received advice suggesting that the grassy area across from Crocker End House, leading to the salt bin, may be suitable for wildflowers, as the grass is finer compared to other parts of the common. Following a brief discussion about the size of the area, the number of volunteers required and the best way to create a wildflower area, BP offered to conduct additional research and produce a project plan to be presented to the Full Council at the meeting on June 4th. **Action: BP** to produce wildflower project plan and circulate to the committee. **Action: JL** to liaise with NDCC to find out how the arisings are dealt with at Peppard Common – how much is raked and how many man-hours it takes and report back to the committee.
- 3) Trees – Members agreed that, following the high winds, a second Tree Survey should be carried out and that it would be sensible, to avoid duplication, to use the same contractor employed by Crocker End House. **Action: JP** to obtain costs.
- 4) Damaged Verge – JO reported that the verge in front of 19 Crocker End had been significantly damaged by work vehicles operating at the property. The owner, present at the meeting, agreed to provide a photo showing the verge's original condition and committed to restoring it accordingly - to facilitate grass regrowth, the area will require protection from parking vehicles until the grass is established.

006/24 Agree on items to present to Parish Council for review

Items 1-3, listed above.

007/24 Items for the agenda for the next CEGMC meeting

There were none.

008/24 Agree date for the October meeting

15th October 7pm.