

NETTLEBED PARISH COUNCIL
CROCKER END GREEN COMMON MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Nettlebed Parish Council at
The White Hart, High Street, Nettlebed on
Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Chairman: Cllr Ondrej Žačko (OŽ)
Committee Members: Cllr Geoff Bond (GB), Beverley Phillips (BP),
David Pinder (DP)

Also present: 4 members of the public

MINUTES

- 009/24 **To receive and accept apologies for Absence**
Apologies received from Jo Overment
- 010/24 **Requests for Dispensations, Declarations of Interest, Gifts and Hospitality**
None declared
- 011/24 **To approve the Minutes of the Crocker End Green Management Meeting held on 23rd April 2024, previously circulated**
The Committee **RESOLVED** that the minutes for the meeting held on 23rd April be accepted as a true record.
- 012/24 **Welcome and introductions**
Crocker End Green Common Management Committee introduced themselves.
Members of the public introduced themselves:
Andy Bryan
Steve Marley
Ros Marley
James Leach (Chair, Nettlebed PC)
- 113/24 **Update on the items addressed since the last meeting**
i. Byelaw Signs

CEGMC agreed to the installation of 3 off wooden 'Byelaw signs' as per NPC recommendations: front of post to have 'No Parking on the Grass', 'No Dog Fouling' & 'No Littering' icons. Sloped front of post to have graphic "Welcome to Crocker End Common"; "Scan the code to see Byelaws"; QR code icon; www link to Byelaws

Proposal to NPC: Location of three posts agreed as per NPC recommendations. NPC to facilitate the ordering and installation of posts.

ii. Promoting wildflowers on the Common

Meeting recommends introduction/planting of wildflowers on selected areas that will have been mowed, raked, and maintained separately to the rest of the Common. Arisings to be piled on edge of Common or under the existing trees, if required. Meeting agreed that wildflower areas should deliberately kept to the sides (rather than centre) of Common areas (care to be taken to avoid the 1metre strip that OCC cut for traffic visibility).

Meeting was reminded the Commons Management Plan strongly recommends only two cuts a year of the grass area, in July and October (if required).

Proposal to NPC: The Committee asks for permission to plant wildflowers on selected areas of the Common. The areas will be minor to the overall size of the Common and won't alter the look or use of the Common. Introducing the wildflowers will require additional activity that might be not in line with the Management Plan (e.g. mowing), however this is a temporary measure. Beverley Phillips will coordinate planting the wildflowers with local volunteers.

iii. Trees

Meeting agreed to facilitate volunteers to trim any trees that hindered Richard Hunt's mowing tractor from cutting grass below.

Meeting agreed that the lime (Tree Survey ref: 04) on verge near Beverley Phillips' house is now hanging into the road. This was marked as low priority during the last tree survey.

Proposal to NPC: NPC to investigate the current situation and impacts.

The Committee discussed a large oak tree (Tree Survey ref: 12) overhanging the road past the salt bin. The Chair reminded the Meeting that the June 2023 Tree Survey had declared this tree as a 'Medium' priority and that the land's owner had done remedial work (branches trimmed, pull test done) after part of the birch tree collapsed following high winds.

iv. Damaged Verge

Meeting discussed specifically the verge outside 19 Crocker End and the adjacent 'Triangle' and then more generally, the issue of Parking on the Common.

Chair reassured the Committee that the verge outside No.19 was being restored as verge and not a hard surfaced parking area. Chair said that the Triangle had been reinstated to the previous depth, using local soil. The area

has been levelled and a limited amount of grass/wildflower reseeding was done, with nature being left to add additional growth over the next season or so.

114/24 **Discuss and agree next steps**

All agreed that parking on the 'Triangle' was an issue and would hinder successful reinstatement. Meeting discussed option available within the parameters of Byelaw restrictions on 'hindering access' to the Common. Meeting discussed large flints but was concerned that vehicles might be damaged if they hit one (possible insurance claims) and agreed to recommend the installation, for a temporary period (to enable grass recovery), of either short posts with reflective discs or temporary signs asking drivers not to park here.

Proposal to NPC: NPC to approve and facilitate the installations of temporary markings/signs (min. 3) to mark the area as 'Rewilding' and to discourage or prevent parking on the 'Triangle' until the grass matures.

Meeting discussed parking generally. Agreed that car parking had increased as an issue during the Pandemic (far more walkers) but had stabilised – it was however still an issue.

Proposal to NPC: Review the options to limit or manage parking on the Common - either by creation of designated parking areas on the Common, or installation of "NO PARKING"

Any other business items:

Chair's update on the support from Sonning Common Green Gym with the Management Plan in the past, and plans for 2025 - clearing of brambles, opportunity to rake the grass cuttings.

Chair's update on the plans for Gigaclear (internet connectivity) that covers the area of the Common.

Chair's update on Re-paving initiative by local MP - several parts of Crocker End submitted.

Chair's update on work done via Fix My Street (several potholes fixed and vandalised traffic signs restored) and appeal to use 'Fix My Street' for related work.

115/24 **Agree on items to present to Parish Council for review**

see 'Proposal to NPC' within 013/24 and 014/24

NPC are keen to circulate a 'Commons Regulations' communication to all Crocker End residents to provide clarity of what the Byelaws covered and (what they required). NPC's draft had been circulated to the CEGCM to consider but the CEGCM considered that it had had insufficient time to consider and consult on this. This document to be discussed and agreed at the next CEGCM meeting in April 2025.

116/24 **Items for the agenda for the next CEGMC meeting**

Review the communication to CEGC residents suggested by NPC and provide recommendations.

117/24 Agree date for the April meeting
Next meeting: 29th April 2025