

ENGLISHCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MILLSTREAM and WHEELWRIGHT'S MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting on Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom

Present: Robert Law (RL), Tim Hancock (TH), Brian Huggett (BH), Bob Marjot (BM), Alison Rushgrove (AR), Richard Swinburn (RS)

Parishioners present: None

1. **Election of Chair and Note Taker:** Bob Marjot was appointed Chairman for this meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** – none received
3. **Co-option to the Committee:** Richard Swinburn was co-opted to the Committee and was appointed minute taker. [The Committee expressed the hope that Matt Hulm would wish to continue on the Committee as a co-opted member on his standing down from the PC.]
4. **Attending Parishioners' questions and comments** – there were none.
5. **Minutes of Management Committee Meeting held 8 September 2020**
 - 5.1 Approval of the Minutes – signed and approved
 - 5.2 Matters arising not covered by the Agenda:
 - the owl bridge has been rebuilt.
 - Alan Jones' memorial flowers have been planted
 - meadow flowers have been planted in the area adjacent to the road
 - A dog poo sign was approved and will be affixed to gate
 - BM is in contact with the Duchy re the steps off and wall adjacent to the road
 - memorial plaques – bar one missing one – have been reinstated on the trees
 - the pond and cress beds have been cleared
 - the PC have become members of the "Freshwater Habitat Trust"
 - the trees have been cleared of brambles and the fallen tree removed
 - BANES/the Duchy continue their work on the Japanese knotweed

6. Finance: Current Bank Balance

- 6.1 The current balance stands at £2,135.60

6.2 Maintenance and running costs for machinery of £397.24 have been incurred [and cheques approved to pay them]. [A spreadsheet with details of the expenditure is available with either BM or TH]

6.3 Donations have been received from parishioners in 2020/2021 of £315. [The Committee expressed their gratitude and underlined the benefit which such regular donations could provide.]

Action: [TH]

7. Machinery and Equipment

7.1 John Wyatt has kindly agreed to carry out minor/ad hoc repairs to the lawn mower, strimmer and DR Strimmer in order to save on the cost otherwise incurred in servicing them

7.2 It was decided to keep the DR Trimmer, though care should be taken not to use it on brambles and thick undergrowth

7.3 No other issues were raised.

Action: None needed

8. Millstream matters

8.1 See 3.2 Matters arising for update of work completed.

8.2 It was agreed that an effort would be made to capitalise on the clearing done over the winter, by keeping the undergrowth down in areas marked green on the attached plan and by mowing/[seeding] the areas already given over to grass, plus the banks of the stream/cress-beds marked blue on the plan, plus a path down to the cress-beds adjacent to the large silver birch.

8.3 It was agreed that an effort would be made to make the most of the streams and ponds, but that no decisions would be taken about development of them (E.g raising the level of the pond) until research had been done (and BH kindly provided a Guide to the Management and Creation of Ponds for use of the Committee (currently with RS).

8.4 It was agreed that it is important to balance on the one hand wildlife habitat areas and on the other open/grassed areas.

8.5 It was agreed that the three wooden benches be treated with appropriate wood preserver [and generally be made good].

8.6 It was agreed that the sleeper bridge across the stream at the bottom of the Millstream be widened and a non-slip surface (as on the owl bridge) be fitted.

8.7 No decision was taken as to the design and purpose of any Notice Board (£180 was given by BANES specifically for this purpose), though there was brief discussion both of the design kindly created by RL and of the one recently erected [at Haycombe].

8.8 Mark Dinwoodie is progressing the replacement of the Dinwoodie specimen tree (Ginkgo) [which the Committee has undertaken to pay for].

Action: RS, BM and all

9. Wheelwright's Workshop & Orchard matters

9.1 RL and BH reported that any work to the floor of Wheelwright's Workshop cannot come from EPC funds, and would have to come from WMO funds. In the circumstances and since the floor has no impact on the structure itself, it was decided not to proceed with works to the floor of Wheelwrights at present.

9.2 The Hulms who have a lease from the PC of Wheelwrights and the Orchard had kindly agreed to allow items of the WMO's machinery and equipment to be kept in Wheelwrights on ad hoc basis.

9.3 It was clarified that insurance of Wheelwrights is undertaken by the PC.

Action: None needed

10. Correspondence

10.1 BH had received a letter from BANES asking for details of any trees planted in the WMO area. BH would respond that none had been planted in 2020

Action: BH

11. AOB

11.1 It was reported that Brigid Devlin-Cook had suggested holding an event (tea/drinks) in Millstream to celebrate the end of lockdown. The Committee welcomed the idea. 27 June has tentatively been set for this, dependent on the Covid situation nearer the time.

11.2 On behalf of the Committee, BM thanked Kathryn Manchee for all of her fantastic work supporting the Committee over the years. She will be missed

12. Date and venue of next meeting: TBC, but in approximately 6 months time

The meeting finished at 8:10pm.