

**MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 2 OF THE NOMANSLAND JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Held in the Hewitt Room, the Memorial Hall, Marford Road, Wheathampstead on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009

**Present:**

Councillors: G. Churchard (Chairman), J. Churchard, G. Clark, P. Kennedy, N. Page, J. Shardlow (Vice Chairman), J. Turner

**Officers in Attendance:**

Ms J. Adamson – Solicitor, St. Albans City and District Council  
Mr. J. Green – Senior Parks and Green Spaces Officer (Culture and Community Development)  
Mr. A. Laurie – Hertfordshire Countryside Management Service (CMS)  
Mr R Shwe – Head of Culture and Community Development  
Mr R Sweetland – Commons Ranger

**Also in Attendance:**

9 members of the public

**Administrator**

Mrs. I. Casper, Deputy Clerk Wheathampstead Parish Council

1. **Election of Chairman**  
**RESOLVED:**

That Councillor G. Churchard be elected as Chairman of the Joint Management Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

Cllr. Churchard took the Chair.

2. **Election of Vice Chairman**  
Cllr. Kennedy proposed Cllr. Shardlow, seconded Cllr. J. Churchard  
Cllr. Turner proposed Cllr. Clark, seconded Cllr. Page

**Vote:**

For Cllr. Shardlow 4                      For Cllr. Clark 3

**RESOLVED:**

That Cllr. Shardlow be elected as Vice Chairman of the Joint Management Committee for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

3. **Apologies for Absence** - None

4. **Replacement Members** - None

5. **Disclosure of Interest** - None

6. **Minutes of Meetings held on 2 April 2009 and 2 July 2009**

The Minutes of Meeting No. 3 of the Management Committee on 2 April 2009, which had been circulated, were confirmed.

The Minutes of the Meeting on 2 July 2009 had been circulated. The following amendments were made:

- i. The wording 'Nomansland Joint Management Committee' were removed and the wording 'Joint Forum' inserted.
- ii. Item 1. First para - After the word meeting – the words 'not quorate' were removed and the wording 'cancelled by St. Albans District Council before it became a Forum' inserted.

The minutes were then confirmed.

A member of the public asked to speak on the minutes. The Chairman agreed to take this item at the end of the meeting.

7. **Annual Inspection 6 August 2009**

Jon Green gave a report.

The Committee walk took place on the 6<sup>th</sup> August where we looked at the work to take place this Winter time. The work comprises of some more thinning of trees to keep access open, allow light to reach the woodland floor, aid the well being of strong trees and to redress the woodland encroachment.

The walk also looked at a further proposed access onto the Heartwood Forest to the left of the flying area where access is already taking place, rabbit exclusion fencing and the results, and last years management works.

Rabbit fencing at the access to Heartwood Forest has been cut. Jon Green confirmed that persons unknown were responsible for the barbed wire being cut.

8. **Progress Report**

The Joint Management considered the report under the following headings:

- (i) Works emerging from the Management Plan  
Volunteer tasks are set for October, led by CMS, to cut back and open up the path leading from the Right Of Way at the South East corner of the Common.
- (ii) Heartwood Forest  
The Woodland Trust, subject to approval from their superiors, has agreed to improve the access to the kissing gate leading on the Heartwood Forest. They will provide the materials and CMS

will put steps into the slope leading to the kissing gate. The Trust has also agreed to pay to have the access through the trees and scrub to be opened up.

(iii) Interpretation

We are currently seeking grant funding for this project to enable the aims to be fully met. Once we have secured grant aid, then a design brief will be put together and we would hope to have some leaflet and interpretation designs to take to the next Joint Management Committee meeting.

(iv) Kite Day

The Arts Development Team will be holding a kite day on the Common on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2009. This will be held after a month of kite building workshops at schools and will be open to all to come along and fly a kite. The planning is in its early stages but it is hoped to have a kite building stall, some low level music and demonstrations.

The event will take place to the east of Ferrers Lane car park and although it will not be directly in the model aircraft flying area, for safety reasons, model aircraft flying will be asked to cease for the time of the event 11.00am – 3.00pm.

- (v) Walking in the Woods an event organised by the Rotary Club will take place on Sunday 4 October. The event will start at 10am to 1pm. Dog walks have been arranged and will cover 1mile and 3 miles.

Cllr. Shardlow asked if unsightly metal and concrete railings which are on the corner of Down Green Lane could be removed.

**ACTION**

Jon Green to assess and consult with relevant officers.

9. **Rangers Report**

The Ranger reported:

Litter picking and cutting back of paths ongoing. Consultation with members of the public and landowners is taking place regarding pest control.

There were two separate fires on the common during the summer. Police did attend and the Fire Service extinguished the fires. The following day the Ranger was helped by a member of the public to clear the rubbish from the area.

There are problems with the barrier lock by the Cricket Pavilion being vandalised. The police are to liaise with Wheathampstead Parish Council.

Myxamatoxis is affecting the rabbit population.

Firework season is approaching and people set them off on the Common without seeking permission.

The Administrator informed the committee that a verbal request had been received by Wheathampstead Parish Council from the Cricket Club, to hold a firework display on 31 October. The Cricket Club had been advised to contact the Safety Advisory Group at St. Albans District Council.

10. **CCTV security for Cricket Pavilion Car Park**

Cllr. Page reported that this area is very short of car parking spaces. If CCTV were available – one camera to the east of the pavilion – security would be increased and the barrier could be opened giving more freedom to park.

**ACTION**

Jon Green will consult with Community Safety Officers and report back at the next meeting.

11. **Volunteer Assistance (CMS, Hertfordshire Community Payback)**

Cllr. Page thought weed wiping birch saplings was not efficient, and wondered if the CMS had a volunteer group who would dig the saplings out.

Alex Laurie explained to the committee that weed wiping should work. Digging up the saplings is time consuming and leaves holes everywhere.

Jon Green reported that two weed wipes a year are in the contract and have proved very successful, (80% clearance).

Members asked if this item could be monitored.

**ACTION**

Weed wiping to be monitored at the Annual Inspection.

12. **Letter from Althorp Estate**

A copy of a letter from the Althorp Estate to St. Albans District Council regarding the reintroduction of grazing had been circulated to all members.

The grazing issue has now been dropped.

13. **Future Meetings and Annual Inspection**

Members agreed meeting dates for 2010.

Thursday 4 February

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Annual inspection Thursday August 5<sup>th</sup> - Meet at 6pm in Ferrers Lane Car Park

14. **Any Other Business**

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak.

a) A member of the public commented on the minutes of 2 July 2009.

b) A member of the public spoke on the prospect of fireworks on the Common, he was very concerned at fireworks being allowed in a residential area. He also expressed concern at the growing number of events that were taking place with a low level of music.

Jon Green assured the committee and members of the public that the District Council would take all their comments into consideration when dealing with requests for events to take place on the Common.

15. **Date of Next Meeting**  
Meeting No. 3 Thursday 4 February 2010

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.16pm.

**Signed**

**CHAIRMAN**