



Lake Working Group Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

held on 14th August 2023 at 7pm, in the Club Room, Village Centre.

Present: Cllr Bridget Culley (Chair) (BC), Cllr Jeanette Davies (JD), Caroline Hoyes (CH), Alex Martin (AM), Cllr Dave Peart (DP).

In attendance: Maxine Owen (Clerk) (MO) Members of the Parish: 0 – Closed Meeting

Meeting start: 19:00

1. **Introduction led by the chair:** General Welcome.
2. No public speaking time required as closed meeting. One parishioner did arrive but was informed that this was a closed meeting, and that there would be a public meeting towards the end of September.
3. Apologies for absence: None
4. Declarations of interest: None
- 5 **Previous meeting was also a closed meeting. Notes are available on the PC website.**

6. **Topic 1: Vision for the Lake Surround**
 - 6.1 Summary of Discussion: What the Lake Surround should look like/be like when the development plan is fulfilled. All agreed that there are many parties interested in the Lake surround being brought back under control, and there is no one organisation that has priority in the lake area. It must be suitable for the Fishing Syndicate to use, have good wildlife habitat, must allow both parishioners and residents around the lake to be able to enjoy the vistas they have been used to in past years.

JD advised that she had contacted Borough Cllr Carr at BDBC; he wasn't able to help, but suggested we employ a consultant to help with our plan for the area but couldn't recommend anyone specific. JD advised that she had contacted Hampshire County Council, but so far has had no response.

It was agreed that it is important to let the Parish know that a plan for the area is being put together, and steps are being taken to sort out an area that now looks somewhat neglected. JD had produced a document with the intention to publish on the local Facebook sites and on the PC website to give the community an idea of the work that is being done, and the framework of the plan. It was agreed by all that this should be published, and the document was good to publish as is.

It was discussed that there should be a public meeting held towards the end of September, open to all, and it would be useful to have the plan formulated in time for that.

OUTCOME: Continue working to finalise the plan (All)

ACTION: JD to publish document on Facebook, and forward to MO to publish on the PC website (JD & MO)



7. Topic 2: Current Plans

7.1 Summary of discussion: It was agreed by all that one of the biggest issues to tackle is still the nettles. Scofell have provided a quote for some spraying options and there was discussion around the method, time of year, and which effective but aquatic-friendly solutions could be used. A discussion about where the experimental areas should be. The areas were agreed should be around the foot of the pylon near the entrance and at the far end near Derrydown, but away from the area where CH is working to remove nettles and replant as part of the SBV project. It was agreed that it was hard to keep ahead of the vigorous nettle growth. It was discussed that mowing more regularly in the area would give grass a chance to dominate over the nettle growth and improve the area. AM advised that he has a contact in the Environment Agency who he could talk to about exactly what products can be sprayed in the area when. In principle it was agreed that a trial spray of nettles should go ahead in the autumn on the confirmation from AM that this is the correct route to take.

During this discussion it was agreed that a meeting would be organised with Scofell (Grounds Maintenance Contractor) to discuss the specification for the Lake area, and whether this is being met by them currently. MO confirmed that the next Lake cut is scheduled for Friday 18th August 2023, with the strimmer team following up on Wednesday 23rd August 2023 to finish the areas that the machine can not reach. It was agreed that DP and MO would walk the Lake surround between the machine cut and the scheduled strim to ensure that Scofell have the correct information relating to areas needing attention, and anything considered missed. It was agreed that it is impossible for areas with piles of debris to be either mowed or strimmed, and this is something that needs addressing.

There was a discussion about whether there was a need for more frequent mowing during the growing season, and a discussion around when and why the first cut happens in May rather than earlier. Nesting birds have to be considered.

Ideally a volunteer working party would enable much of the debris to be cleared, the woodchip redeployed, logs restacked or cleared. Could the bonfire site be reestablished? Should a contractor be employed to do a one off clearance of certain areas where debris has been left for too long and is now limiting access for machinery.

OUTCOME: Lots more to investigate and priority list of things to tackle to be drawn up.

ACTION: Contact Environment Agency for advice on suitable spray solutions, and when (AM)

ACTION: Organise a meeting with Scofell to discuss the specification for the Lake Cut within the grounds maintenance contract (MO/DP)

ACTION: Walk around after machine cut to identify areas for strimming team. (MO/DP)

8 Topic 3: Tree Works

8.1 Summary of Discussion: MO advised that one quote for an up to date tree report has come in from Wessex Woodland, but is struggling to find other companies to quote. There is now clarity on the current permissions the PC has to work on the trees from the last report in 2018. MO agreed to share the information with AM.

It was discussed, as with the nettles, that a volunteer working party would enable much of the debris to be cleared, the woodchip redeployed, logs restacked or cleared. Could the bonfire site be reestablished? Should a contractor be employed to do a one off clearance of certain areas where debris has been left for too long and is now limiting access for machinery. Once the new Tree Report is available then a Priority for Tree Work should be put together with a plan to tackle the huge amount of work that is anticipated. Then contractors asked to quote for the work required following a phased plan. MO suggested that a call to Sparsholt might be worth a try, to see if they were interested in helping us deal with the trees while allowing their students experience. Insurance would have to be investigated.

OUTCOME: All agreed that the Tree Work would have to be very carefully managed because of

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budget.

ACTION: Acquire further quotes for the Tree Report (MO)

ACTION: Contact Sparsholt (MO)

ACTION: Utilise contacts who may wish and be able to help (ALL)

9 Topic 4: Casting Points

9.1 Summary of discussion: BC opened the discussion trying to identify where in the Lake Surround the fishing syndicate would consider casting points, and could these areas be subject to immediate focus for remedial action? Because of the nature of the area and the type of fishing and the members of the fishing syndicate using different styles and needing different access it was hard to identify specific points. AM identified areas that were currently manageable, or would be with a small amount of work, and then other areas which could be made better – for example with the removal or crown-lifting of certain trees in certain places. The current casting points are fairly obvious was agreed.

10 Any Other business:

10.1 Summary of discussion: At some point in the meeting it was briefly discussed that the covenant stipulates that there should be a Lake Committee rather than only a Working Group. It was agreed that both could exist, and that twice a year the Lake Committee would meet in a form open to the public. The rest of the time the Working Group would meet as required to move things forward. Details from all meetings would be published for all to see. Decision on Lake Committee vs Working Group to be taken to the next Council Meeting for a decision.

ACTION: Add Lake Committee/Covenant to Agenda for meeting on 12th Sept (MO)

ACTION: Decide next date towards end of September for public meeting (ALL)

Date of next meeting: TBA

Meeting end: 20:30

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