

**Report from the St Mary Bourne Lake Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 23 September 2019 at 7:15pm in the Club Room, Village Centre**

Those present: Cllrs Bridget Culley, Tony Grunsell, Oliver Madge, Dave Peart, Gwen Randall and Sarah Cooney and Alex Martin.

In attendance: Maggie Shelton, H&loWWT

Members of public in attendance: 5

1. Appoint chair and vice chair and establish representative roles

Resolved: Nominations were requested for the chair. Cllr Culley nominated Cllr Peart and he was unanimously elected.

Resolved: Nominations were requested for the vice-chair. Cllr Peart nominated Cllr Culley and she was unanimously elected.

Resolved: It was noted that Sarah Cooney will represent the ecological aspect, Alex Martin will represent the fishing syndicate. The local residents will be represented by the parish councillors. It was also noted that Alex Martin live alongside the lake and can represent the views of those residents.

2. Apologies for absence: None

3. Declaration of interests: None

4. Agree principles around use of the lake

Resolved: After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Madge will put together options for limited access to the lake for organised groups, in line with the agreement reached with Dr Evans when the lake was gifted to the parish council, as set out in the covenant in the title deeds. Cllr Randall set out her opposition to allowing children access to the lake, even when supervised, and this was noted by the committee.

Resolved: It was further agreed that the lake and its environs should be actively managed for habitat enrichment and H&loWWT will support the committee in developing a management plan to meet that objective.

Resolved: It was agreed that the fishing rights should continue to be let to the fishing syndicate on the same basis as currently. The clerk was instructed to draft a new agreement to replace the now lapsed agreement.

5. Consider risk assessment and establish a maintenance and inspection regime based on that assessment

Resolved: It was agreed that Cllr Madge will undertake a risk assessment process as part of developing the options for access. Sarah Cooney asked if we can get an accurate profile of the lake and the clerk was instructed to investigate. Alex Martin noted that the risk of contracting Weil's disease should be included in the risk assessment.

6. Agree a model of access for those purchasing fishing rights and other users

Resolved: Covered in item 4 above.

7. Agree process to develop a habitat management plan

Resolved: Covered in item 4 above.

8. Receive update on Watercress & Winterbourne lakeside riverbank restoration and flow management project

Resolved: Maggie Shelton briefly presented the proposed riverbank restoration project and the Open Chalk Streams project. The clerk was instructed to send details of both projects to the committee members. It was agreed that a meeting with the residents alongside the lake will be organised in the Autumn to brief them on the proposals.

9. Consider plan for tree work

Resolved: It was noted that a contractor has been engaged to clear the fallen Poplar branch. The chair noted that a tree survey was undertaken in the Spring which will inform the tree work for the next few years. It was agreed initially to carry out the pollarding on the damaged Poplar (tree 1494) and remove the ivy from the trees identified so that they can be resurveyed. The clerk was instructed to apply for a Tree Notice for the Poplar and instruct a tree surgeon to remove the ivy.

10. Consider budget requirements 2020-2021

Resolved: It was agreed that the tree work budget should be doubled to reflect the work required in the survey.

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

Jo Exelby
Clerk, St. Mary Bourne Parish Council
24 September 2019