



## Lake Working Party

Held on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 at 19:00, in the Village Centre.

### Summary Notes

Present: Cllrs Bridget Culley; Oliver Madge (Chair), Gwen Randall, Dave Peart.

In attendance: Temp Clerk, Maxine Owen, Jez Ahl, Khalid Aziz.

Meeting start: 19:00

To confirm none of the Parish Council members considered this a Lake Committee meeting, hence no advanced agenda or formal minutes. The purpose of the meeting was to reach an agreement with relevant parties on the contract with the Fishing Syndicate and to produce a statement around the potential Hide for the lake surround.

The meeting started with introductions, and apologies that the meeting would be short as Oliver Madge had to leave at 8pm due to a family emergency.

Unfortunately, Alex Martin, the administrator of the Fishing Syndicate did not attend, so limited progress could be made concerning the detail within the Fishing Syndicate contract.

Jez Ahl advised that there was much concern from residents and others about what the plan for the future of the Lake was. Informed the meeting that he had seen numerous emails with concerns, rumours, opinions, and asked for clarity from the Parish Council members as to what was going on.

It was determined that relevant parties had access to the covenant for the Lake that was part of the process when the Lake was gifted to the Parish Council's care, including fishing, as part of the wider management of the space. It was confirmed that this was to be managed by the Parish Council and the lake committee.

For decades the lake area has been left for the sole use of the Fishing Syndicate (and model boat club), but in recent times there have been enquiries from Parishioners about whether the use of the lake could be managed to allow a wider use for all, in a controlled/limited way.

In 2019, before Covid struck, momentum had gathered to work together with all interested parties to create a plan for the whole lake area. Unfortunately, lockdown occurred and work on this plan has not been completed.

The Sustainable Bourne Valley group have been involved on the ecological side in the last few years, experiments with the cutting round the lake to encourage wildlife have been done, organized planting of certain areas etc.

The Fishing Syndicate have been asked to identify the casting points they require and cutting instructions to the contractor adjusted accordingly. Clarification is needed as to whether specific casting points are required when some fishermen fish standing in the lake in waders, and others use the spots that the gaps in the trees enable them to cast from.

The point was made that attempts need to be made to try and limit the numbers of geese on the lake, but this is potentially a conflict with the desire for swans to still use the lake. More discussion required and limited bank space openings, especially where the Swans usually reside.

It was suggested that now that the covenant is 30 years old it should be reviewed, and may not be as fit for purposes as to what the space, mindsets towards ecology, and the wider parishioners attitudes. Agreement was not reached on this.



It was agreed that a consultation with the parish and other stakeholders should be done as soon as possible, as nothing would be able to move forward until this is done. Cllr Culley advised that there had been a consultation in recent years – details of what this involved need to be shared.

All attendees agreed that the safety aspect of any future access needed to be paramount in planning as things move forward. Particularly when the lake is running full when the water table is high this time of year.

The only income from the Lake currently is from the Fishing Syndicate agreement, this does not cover the maintenance costs of the area, particularly the management of the trees. Allowing the development of the ecology and education interest and increasing the access / use of the lake to all could give the Parish Council improved access to grants to enable the required maintenance to go ahead each year.

It was discussed that the charge to the fishing syndicate should remain fair, to enable access to all. Without Alex Martin at the meeting it was impossible to discuss the syndicate's agreement with the PC in detail, but it was noted that the PC doesn't have enough information about the syndicate members to know who is poacher or who is a member, for example. Who should be contacted if there was an accident with one of the fishermen? Contact details for and an idea of process for potential new members to join the syndicate/waiting list should be understood and published on PC website – no details there at the moment.

Details that can be sorted out with a comprehensive agreement between the PC and Fishing Syndicate. Communication lines need to be open, and the next agreement needs to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

It was agreed that the PC should reconsider the terms of the fishing syndicate agreement and possibly retain the administration of the membership, to ensure that due diligence on safety and governance on finances can be achieved.

Cllr Culley advised that there had already been a consultation on the Hide being installed in the Lake surround. The residents would argue there hadn't been. Agreed at the last full PC meeting that the Lake Committee should come up with a statement to clarify details around the Hide, and still work towards its installation. Agreed consultation is the way forward with this project. Cllr Randall to continue to look for an alternative supplier, agreement made with PC on its specification and financials, to include plan for installation, on going maintenance costs, and depreciation. Planned consultation with Parishioners before installation.

Consensus was reached to manage any changes in the right way. Good consultation and communication, formal minute taking and publication of committee meetings.

Meeting Finished at 20:15