



Lake Committee Meeting – DRAFT MINUTES

held on Monday 6th 2023 at 19.00, in the Club Room, Village Centre.

Present: Cllrs Bridget Culley, Oliver Madge (Chair), Glenda Mew, Dave Peart, Gwen Randall, Alex Martin & George (Fishing), Caroline Hoyes (Ecology),

In attendance: Parish Clerk, Maxine Owen Members of the Parish: 2

Meeting start: 19:00

1. Introduction led by the chair: General Welcome.

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Lake Users

3.1 Fishing Agreement agreed by Parish Council, so copy to be sent to Alex Martin, then signed by all parties ready for 1st April 2023 start. A discussion was had about the membership card, and the need for photo id of some kind. The membership card doesn't need to have a photo included if the syndicate members agree to carry their membership card, rod license, and a form of photo id whenever they fish. There was a discussion about insurance, and the Fishing Syndicate members are advised to have individual insurance to cover themselves in the event of an accident at the lake.

Alex advised that the syndicate is usually about 15 members, and contact details need to be shared with the PC in case of enquiries from potential new members. An advert could be created to publish in the Hill and Valley and on the Community Website.

Alex advised that it costs about £5000 to run the syndicate each year, approximately £3000 rent and the rest for stocking the lake.

3.2 It was discussed that there is an outstanding payment on the PC accounts system for an unpaid invoice for 1st January 2023 to 31st March 2023. Alex Martin advised that there was no agreement in place last year, the Lake wasn't used, so the syndicate do not owe the outstanding amount. For the sake of good relations and to enable a move forward the Lake Committee agreed that this invoice would be cancelled. The new Agreement to be signed for a 1st April 2023, and the Clerk would invoice from that date. Alex Martin advised that there is a clause in the covenant that stipulates that if the lake is so low in water it becomes unfishable then the rent is not longer payable. This is currently not part of the proposed 2023 agreement, and the Covenant will be double-checked to clarify this.

3.3 It was discussed that the Terms of Reference for the PC concerning the Fishing Syndicate will be reviewed and published on the PC website.

A document was provided at the meeting 'Voluntary Tasks Carried Out In The Lake Environs' – see appendix 1 to these minutes. The document is not dated and future discussion is needed concerning the list and the items on it.

ACTIONS: Send copy of Fishing Agreement to Alex Martin for review and signature – **Cllr Madge**

Contact details for enquiries to join syndicate to be shared with Clerk – **Alex Martin**

Fishing Syndicate Details to be added to Community Website - **Clerk**

Outstanding Invoice to be cancelled in system - **Clerk**

Check Covenant for Low Water Clause – **Clerk & Cllr Madge**

Terms of Reference of Lake Committee reviewed, and updated if necessary - **Clerk**

Signed Date



4. Lake Surround Management:

- 4.1 The committee were advised that the Scofell Contract end 31st March 2024 rather than this year as first thought. The Lake surround will be cut 5 times a year, as originally agreed with Scofell until a proper plan for the area has been agreed. The first cut will be in May 2023.
- 4.2 It was agreed that tree management is ongoing, there is some work that could be done on a voluntary basis – as Section 10 of Appendix 1 Document. Other work will require professionals to do, and because of the expense will have to be well planned.
- 4.3 It was proposed that the Committee should revisit the idea of a Plan for the Lake & Surround, and include all interested parties. The whole committee understands how the pandemic prevented the Lake Plan being completed in recent years. The process would need to again start with a walk around, identifying those areas of significant interest to all parties – ie Casting Points, Trees and tree debris needing attention, nesting areas, nettles, areas that can become ecology areas because they would not come into conflict with fishing etc. Caroline Hoyes suggested Charlotte Rimmer, the Countryside Ranger for Andover might be interested in helping, as although she works in Test Valley she now lives in the parish. Numbers involved in any ‘walk around’ should be limited in numbers, so that all details can be caught, and lots of different conversations aren’t happening at once. It was discussed that any planting in the Lake surround would be managed area by area, this is already work in progress with Caroline Hoyes has been working at the surgery end of the Lake to remove nettles ready to plant wild flowers. Alex Martin advised that the committee needs to be mindful of disease in the Lake – Fish Fleas, Algae, Avian Flu. Suggested the Lake could be come a SSSI or SACS possibly enabling access to SSSI Grants. To be investigated further as part of a future project and all implications to be considered including any restrictions it might bring.

ACTION: Organise a small group to walk around to define parameters of the Plan – **Cllr Madge**

5. The Hide:

- 5.1 An email about the Hide received from a concerned parishioner was discussed between the Cllrs present at the Lake Committee meeting, as they had previously been circulated the email. It was agreed that there were still a few questions to be answered before the Hide could be finally ordered. There is no documented evidence of a consultation with the local school, as the intended main users of the Hide, so this should be done before the order placed. On confirmation that the school would use the Hide, then the next step would be to investigate the impact on the Parish Council’s Liability Insurance as a result of its installation. Committee members are genuinely concerned about the safety risks associated with the Hide and how it may well become the new ‘smoking shed’ for local teenagers. Only when these points have been considered by the full council will the project move forward. It was agreed that the residents had been consulted on the Hide at an open meeting at the beginning of August 2022. Alex Martin raised the point that the covenant did not allow Public Access to the Lake, but it was clarified that the installation of the Hide was not allowing public access, because access would be in managed and the PC would remain in control of who and when the Hide is used.

ACTION: Contact to be made with St Mary Bourne Primary School – **Clerk**
Decision on whether to contact Insurance Company as next step after Response from head Teacher – **Full Council**

Initialed..... Date



6. Watercress & Winterbournes River Monitoring

6.1 Clerk is consolidating the paperwork relating to this project to ensure that correct reserves are held in the PC Bank Account. Committee members clearly understand approximate numbers, and principles of the agreement between the PC and Watercress & Winterbournes Group, but the information also needs to be held centrally for audit compliance.

ACTION: Provide available detail that Lake Committee Members/Councilors have to the Clerk – **ALL (Lead by Cllr Peart).**

Meeting Finished: 20:10

Copies of Lake Committee Minutes may be accessed at stmarybourne-pc.gov.uk - ParishCouncilMeetings

DRAFT

Initialed..... Date