



## Lake Working Group Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7pm, in the Committee Room, Village Centre.

Present: Cllr Bridget Culley (Chair) (BC), Cllr Jeanette Davies (JD), Charlotte Rimmer (CR), Alex Martin (AM), Cllr Dave Peart (DP).

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

Meeting start: 19:00

1. **Introduction led by the chair:** General Welcome.
2. No public speaking time required as closed meeting to review progress.
3. Apologies for absence: None
4. Declarations of interest: None

### 5. **Topic 1: Review of Working Party Day on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

- 5.1 Summary of Discussion: All present considered that the day had gone well, with lots of people attending to help. Lots of positive feedback from those there on the day that it was good to be invited to be involved and good to see progress being made. It was agreed at the meeting that another day should be organised in the Spring.

There are now two piles of brash/off cuts that need to be dealt with. Either by bonfire, when the weather allows, or by contracting a chipper.

JD took photographs on the day which have now been shared on Facebook.

The uptake on cake and hot drinks was quite low on the day, but the group agreed that it should continue to be offered to volunteers at future events.

Volunteers seemed happy to bring their own equipment, but it was discussed whether the PC should purchase a few more tools. Agreement was not reached on this, so will be discussed at a future meeting. The PC already has a hedgecutter/trimmer.

It was noted on the volunteer day, that the life buoys need replacing. One immediately which is split, and the others because the ropes may be rotten. CR advised that Throw-Lines may be more appropriate.

**ACTION:** Settle invoice with The Boundary for the days refreshments – **Clerk**

**ACTION:** Get quotes for Chipping the two brash piles - **Clerk**

**ACTION:** Investigate replacement Buoys vs Throw Lines - **Clerk**

### 6. **Topic 2: Management Plan**

- 6.1 Summary of discussion: CR has agreed to start putting together the Lake Management Plan. Has experience with this sort of project. The document will include all previously discussed topics such as cutting plan, tree management plan, planting plans, surveys, fishing requirements etc.

MO advised that Cllr Madge had sent through lots of documents which would be relevant content for the plan.

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Signed ..... Date .....



**ACTION:** Send any relevant documents to CR - Clerk

**7 Topic 3: Possible Poaching on the Lake**

7.1 Summary of Discussion: AM advised that there was possible poaching occurring at the lake, and he believed that access was being gained from the Derrydown end on the Lake. There was discussion about having barbed wire along the top of the fence at that end, although all agreed that it would be hard to keep out a determined poacher.

It was suggested that a Wildlife Camera could be purchased by the Parish Council. This would determine whether unauthorised people were fishing, but would also be interesting to see what wildlife were using the Lake. CR advised that SBV did already have one that could possibly be utilized,

There have been possible sightings of otters recently.

BC advised that she is waiting for a quote from Contour Fencing for replacing the fence along the Derrydown boundary.

**ACTION:** Investigate Options for a Wildlife Camera, and include the 24-25 budget – Clerk

**ACTION:** Pass quote for new fence for inclusion in next years budget – BC

**8 Topic 4: Fishing Syndicate**

8.1 Summary of discussion: A discussion was had about the Fishing Syndicate contract, and whether the syndicate had to pay if the Lake had dried up. There is nothing in the current contract agreeing this (and will probably not be relevant this year considering the current water levels in the area), but should be considered before the contract next year.

It was suggested that the start date of the contract could be changed to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> January instead of 1<sup>st</sup> of April. This would allow AM to organise payment from his syndicate members and for the lake to be stocked with fish earlier. It was agreed that either option is acceptable to the Parish Council, and AM would let the Clerk know his decision.

**ACTION:** Consider Dry Lake scenario for future contracts – ALL

**ACTION:** Advise Clerk of decision on contract start date change – AM

**9 Topic 5: Trees**

9.1 Summary of discussion: Tree Report is due this week (w/c 06.11.23). Once in priority work list and costs would be put together. There is a very tall dead tree in the Lake surround which is likely to be on a high priority list. It does have a bat box installed, so CR advised that this would need to be dealt with before any tree work would be permitted. DP advised that he knew a professional who would be able to deal with this and would contact him to action its removal/reinstallation elsewhere.

The group were clear that any tree works done anywhere on Parish owned land would need to be properly quoted and approved before going ahead. Approved by the Tree Officer at BDBC as well as financially at SMB PC.

The priority list and tree report would be included in the Management Plan for the Lake.

**ACTION:** Share Tree Report once available - Clerk

**ACTION:** Contact Bat Expert to move bat box – DP

**Date of next meeting: End of January 2024 – date to be confirmed**

Meeting end: 20:15

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