

Woolhope Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Broadmoor Common Steering Group Tuesday 23rd July 2024 at Woolhope Village Hall, commencing at 6.00pm

1. To receive apologies.

Apologies were received from Clive Boulton-Brooks.

Those in attendance were Cllrs Matt Slocombe, Mary Windham and Phil Hawkins. Sally Webster, Suzanne Noble, Julia Cotton and Mike Jones from Dormington & Mordiford Parish Council, Philip Eeles, Greg Cotton, Kate Wollen and Woolhope Parish Clerk Nick Richmond.

2. To consider a memorial to Mark July.

Sally Webster advised that the Woolhope Dome Environmental Trust are keen to see a memorial bench to Mark and to help fund it. Matt Slocombe suggested that depending upon what funds come forward two benches could be sought one by the pond at the far end of the common which was a particular project that Mark was keen on and the other where an existing bench was in disrepair. Julia Cotton advised that a local bench maker had supplied many for Checkley Common and she would find out if they continued to make them. The other suggestion was for a Barn Owl box.

3. To propose that Parish Council sign the FiPL grant agreement document.

It was agreed that Woolhope Parish Council should be asked to sign and submit the agreement.

4. To propose that Parish Council purchase the Ryetec 1600. Deer fencing, oak posts/dragons teeth.

It was agreed that Woolhope Parish Council be asked to purchase the machine and reclaim 80% of the price under the FiPL grant. The machine will then be delivered to Jake Price who will undertake the cutting of the north side of Broadmoor Common under a lease agreement with the council. The machine may then be used to cut Checkley Common and Jake Price would be able to take advantage of other commercial opportunities to utilise the machine, which he would maintain and insure. The oak posts are to mark out the car park on the common to prevent vehicular damage to the verges. It was agreed that the Balfour Beatty Locality Steward be approached to agree the placing of the posts such that no highways issues are created.

5. Signage - an update on the purchase and installation of the new signage.

Sally Webster showed the meeting the completed designs and read out the following suggested wording to be added in memorial to Mark July: 'In memory of Mark July's enthusiastic contributions and resolute dedication to conservation'. The wording was agreed and Sally will ask EEK design to proceed and advise Woolhope Parish Council of any remaining costs. The boards can then be produced for attachment to both sides of the noticeboard on the common.

6. Winter tree work - to consider a new contract with Dave Smith.

The three year agreement with Dave Smith having expired, the meeting agreed that there would be continuing work to be done, but maybe not on the same scale as before. It was agreed to offer Dave Smith a new three year contract for a minimum of 8 person days per year rather than the previous 10 person days with the option to increase those days as circumstances required.

7. Volunteer days - to consider volunteer days and work that might be included.

Volunteer day ideas (for next year) include grassland restoration near Paul Rogers and a project

funded by the Big Apple Community Benefit Society, for DNA sampling of an existing pear tree to discover if it is wild or a cultivar linked to local orchard varieties. Black Poplars have been planted. Matt Slocombe advised that he has signs at The Crown that can be put up to advise walkers etc when work is being carried out by volunteers.

8. To agree a date for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd October 6.00pm at Woolhope Village Hall immediately before the Woolhope Parish Council meeting.

Issued on 25.7.2024
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Topic: Broadmoor Common Steering Group
Time: 6.00pm Tuesday 23rd July 2024