

Westleton Common Advisory Group

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022 at 7-30 pm in the foyer of Westleton Village Hall

Present: Nick Shearme (NS), David Rous (DR), Julian Alexander (JA), Joyce Burtenshaw (JBU), John Bebbington (JBe), Amanda Freeman (AF), Barry Banks (BB).

1 – *Apologies.* Chris Freeman (CF).

NS welcomed BB to his first meeting of the group.

2 - *Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11th April 2022.*

Agreed to be correct.

3 - *Matters arising not on this agenda.*

None.

3a – *Removal of ash from Noddle.*

The ash has been removed.

3b – *Unsafe bench.*

JA will consider options for repair and will implement.

3c – *Displaying maps in hall.*

JBe was confident that he had given laminated copies of A2 versions of the maps of the common to a group member for display in the hall. Unfortunately, memory is unreliable. All members of the group are asked to check if they do have these maps. Meanwhile JBe has spare A2 copies, and he will get these laminated (if anyone has an A2 laminator perhaps they can let him know.)

4 – *Publication of Management Plan.*

JBe will arrange for notices to be put on the notice boards and that a note is put in the Yoxmere Fisherman and on the Westleton website to the effect that;

The Management Plan for Westleton Common for the period 2023 to 2033 has now been written and accepted by Westleton Parish Council. A copy of this plan is available in the Foyer of Westleton Village Hall and can also be read on the Westleton website at (ctrl click) [Management-Plan-FINAL-VERSION-220621.pdf](#)

(onesuffolk.net). If anyone has any questions or concerns, they can contact any member of the Advisory Group, names and contact details can also be found on the website (Ctrl click) [About Us » Westleton \(onesuffolk.net\)](#). We will then organise a meeting and guided walk on the common, probably in September 2022, to discuss the proposals.

5 – *Dates, format and agenda for public consultation meeting.*

The group agreed that we should now discuss the plan with the wider community so they can raise any questions they have. A public meeting in the hall would not be the best way to do this; a better approach would be to discuss and explain the plan on the common itself. So, a guided walk will be arranged in September so the plan can be discussed “on-site”.

6 – *Sending plan to other agencies – e.g., Natural England.*

The plan can be sent to other agencies in conjunction with funding bids as appropriate.

7 – *Grant applications.*

JBe (other members of the group are encouraged to do this as well) will investigate applying for an extension to the existing HLS funding agreement with DFRA/RPA and an application for a new grant. This needs to be done in conjunction with Ian Haines, Clerk to Westleton PC, as he is the recognised contact for Westleton PC.

If funding bids are unsuccessful, we need to investigate alternative sources of funding. Advice can be sought from Community Action Suffolk if and when this is necessary.

8 – GPS survey of boundary.

Westleton Parish Council has discussed a proposal to arrange a GPS survey of the boundaries of Westleton Common.

The Advisory Group concedes that having an agreed recorded map of the boundary could well be useful but feels that, on balance, this proposal would be unwise.

It would be necessary to agree the boundaries with all the neighbouring property owners. This would be time consuming and could, possibly, raise concerns that are currently not of interest. *Letting sleeping dogs lie* is a useful cliché that comes to mind.

Agreeing and recording the boundaries may also generate legal costs that neither WPC nor the neighbouring property owners need at present.

The one cost estimate available for conducting a GPS survey is in the order of £2,500. It would not be proper to fund this out of current grant money as this is intended to fund the management of the common under the existing and new management plans. It would not be appropriate to spend grant money on a GPS survey. So Westleton PC would have to fund this directly from precept funds. This seems to be an unnecessary charge on the Westleton council taxpayers.

The group advises against this proposal. Better use can be made of the money that would be spent and it may open up other problems that are not currently of concern.

9 – Help from Coast and Heath volunteers.

NS has spoken with Neil Lister of Suffolk Coast and Heaths. They could offer us 2 or 3 working parties through the season. DR suggested that Compartment 9 would be the best area to concentrate on so JBe will, in conjunction with DR, draw up proposals for work in Compartment 9. These will be passed to Suffolk Coasts and Heaths via Ian Haines.

10 – Purchase of tools.

DR advised that 4 shears would be very helpful to the working parties. NS will check suitable shears available on-line and suggest to Ian Haines that they are ordered.

11 – AOB

DR tabled revised dates for working parties over the winter. These are;

September 17th

October 1st and 15th

November 19th

January 7th and 21st

February 4th and 18th

March 18th

These dates have been added to the website.

JA raised concerns about broken glass and other debris round the glass recycling bins on the layby falling off the concrete base. The material left over from construction can be used to fill the surrounds of the base. This work is to be arranged.

12 – Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 20 September 2022. (This date is provisional, but the foyer of the Village Hall has been booked.)