

Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984 Acting Chairman Mr C Cotton
chriscotton13558@btinternet.com

Secretary Mr R Cooke
r.cooke33@btinternet.com

Minutes of a Committee meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Friday 27th October 2023 at Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall



287
COMMON
RIGHTERS

Held on

CL 65
CL 161
CL 162
CL 124

To take:

*Wildfowl
Fish
Seaweed
Samphire
Sand
Shingle
Shellfish
Sea Lavender
Estovers
Herbage
Fangle
Bait
Reeds
Soil
Game*

To graze;

*Cattle
Horses
Pheas*

All Common Rightholders are entitled to attend Committee meetings but only Committee members are entitled to vote.

Present: Chris Cotton (Chair), Stephen Bocking (Vice Chair), Rod Cooke (Sec.), Michael Bucher (Treasurer), Peter Hambro, Peter Bickell, Tom Gathercole, Billy Scoles, Mark Cooke and coopted Linda Beamish. Apologies from John Short.

1. Minutes of the meeting of Friday 16th June 2023, draft minutes of which have been circulated, were agreed as a correct record.
2. Updates on matters arising from the June General Meeting and the Working Party meetings of 14th July, 22nd August and 15th September.

Whilst much of the information from the working party meetings must remain confidential for the time being, because the matters are with the Court or Tribunal, other items are listed here below.

- a) National Trails – boardwalk – fencing – cattle: Concern was expressed about the seats on the boardwalk and lack of fencing – Stephen has been in contact with Biggleswade common rightholders who lease out their common for grazing with the proceeds being shared out amongst the common rightholders – noted that common rightholders are again exercising their rights to graze geese on the common. Sec. to contact National Trails to get update on works and compensation payments.
- b) National Trust – BCC – BFC – Brancaster pipeline project: There was discussion about the chain on the Hard at Brancaster and noted that the hard is village green rather than common. However, it was also noted that common rightholders have an ancillary right to use the Hard for their boats in pursuit of their common rights. The NT proposed pipeline was discussed and noted that this was planned to include services provided by BT and the UK Power Networks. Sec. to contact NT asking that SH&DCRA be kept in the loop.
- c) CL124 and the RWNGC – curtilage car park – action re two year notice to quit:

These issues were mentioned but agreed to leave whilst PeterH is negotiating with the RWNGC.

Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984 Acting Chairman Mr C Cotton
chriscotton13558@btinternet.com

Secretary Mr R Cooke
r.cooke33@btinternet.com

Peter H reported back that the RWNGC were willing to talk to SH&DCRA but were waiting to see the results of the Court case. It was suggested that there was no need for there to be a wait and that discussions should go ahead as soon as possible. A Heads of Agreement document has been drawn up to help lead the discussions. Particular attention was drawn to item b of that document: *SH&DCRA will always show goodwill and want nothing more than to meet up with other parties concerned to reach a settlement that will have at its heart the well-being of the common.* Peter H was again given the go-ahead, with thanks, to speak to the RWNGC on behalf of SH&DCRA. The whole of the Heads of Agreement can be made public.


287
COMMON
RIGHTERS

Held on

££ 65
££ 161
££ 162
££ 124

To take:

Wildfowl
Fish
Seaweed
Samphire
Sand
Shingle
Shellfish
Sea Lavender
Estovers
Herbage
Tangle
Bait
Reeds
Soil
Game

To graze;

Cattle
Horses
P... ..

d) Brancaster Parish Council and Beach Road Car Park receipts: Court action update: Noted that SH&DCRA have engaged solicitors to handle the Court case claim against Brancaster Parish Council.

e) Holkham Estate, Burnham Overy Parish Council and BOHT: Land Registry and Tribunal hearing: The background to the Hearing was again outlined along with the limitations of the results expected. SH&DCRA are trying to get FoI requests for correspondence between BOHT, the Charity Commission and the Information Commissioners Office to ascertain how a charity (BOHT) could be allowed where its charitable objectives are unlawful. Chris, Stephen and Rod will represent SH&DCRA at the Tribunal.

The secretary for BOHT has informed SH&DCRA that they will be clearing the verges at Overy in October. The BOHT sec. has also asked, on behalf of the Trustees, for the names of SH&DCRA Chair and Vice Chair as well as the Reeves. Sec. to write back asking which Trustees wanted this information.

The BOHT newsletter was discussed and noted that it contained much information about unlawful activities on the common.

f) BONWA and Brancaster Gun Clubs: Barristers report: After a short discussion it was agreed that, as SH&DCRA have the overriding responsibility for the commons, the Sec. write to both wildfowling clubs and ask for a copy of the full report to be given to SH&DCRA Committee. Chris and Stephen abstained throughout.

Sec. to write to Holkham Estate concerning the issuing of a licence for non-common rightholders to shoot over common land.

Sec. to contact John Short re contact with Kent Wildfowlers.

3. Correspondence:

a. Dog bins/Burnham Overy Parish Council: SH&DCRA were told that two dog bins placed on the common were to be re-sited. Sec. was asked to write back saying that SH&DCRA gave their permission but did question the new proposed siting.

Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984 Acting Chairman Mr C Cotton
chriscotton13558@btinternet.com

Secretary Mr R Cooke
r.cooke33@btinternet.com

- b. An email from Victoria at the NT had been received saying that she would provide some financial figures next week.
- c. Email from NCC Registration Office to say that the Rights section of the Register will be amended to put right the mistake that Chris had spotted.



287
COMMON
RIGHTS

Held on

££ 65
££ 161
££ 162
££ 124

To take:

Wildfowl
Fish
Seaweed
Samphire
Sand
Shingle
Shellfish
Sea Lavender
Estovers
Herbage
Fangle
Bait
Reeds
Soil
Game

To graze;

Cattle
Horses
P... ..

4. Reeves' reports:

- a. Billy reported that work has been going on at Overy on the bank. Sec. had contacted the Environment Agency with no reply so far. Sec. will chase up.

5. A.O.B.

- a. The Treasurer gave a report on current finances: Members of the Committee have seen and approved the accounts.
- b. Sec. reported that the Association website has now been upgraded and that its new domain name is www.shdcra.com
- c. Noted that somebody was mischief making by setting up another site calling itself the official site. It is known who this is.

6. A member of the public had been given the opportunity to speak during the meeting.

- a) Date and time of next meeting. TBA