

FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 3 April 2017 at Dodhill Firs

Present: Mr Alan Hughes (Chairman), Mrs Laetitia Kelly (Vice-Chairman), Mr Chris Paul (Treasurer), Mrs Mary ter Braak (Secretary), Mrs Barbara Shaw, Mrs Sandra Samuelson, Mr Phillip Comer, Mr Iain Porter, Mr Mike Pitcher, Mr Tim Whittingham and Mrs Carol Waterman-Smith (Minutes Secretary).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received from Major Denys White, Revd. Stephen Campbell, Mr Ian Kett and Mr John Fawcett.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12 DECEMBER 2016: The Minutes were approved as a true record of the Meeting and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING:

- The noticeboard at DWD has been replaced.
- AH informed the Committee that the 2016 Big Bid had been unsuccessful. Successful applications included three re-submissions. IP explained that the Bid would be re-submitted at the end of May 2017 following detailed consultations with landowners and taking into account comments made by the Lottery Fund assessors. Joint projects with FoQ in the Bid included archives, the CPG car park and research projects. The result would be known in October 2017 and, if successful, this would be followed by a two year development phase with delivery starting in 2020. If the second submission of the Big Bid was unsuccessful, AH stated that the FoQ would undertake the CPG car park independently, using the £25K currently reserved for the project and raising additional funds where necessary.
- AH commented on a well attended AGM with an excellent talk by Professor Peter Haggett.

ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER:

(currently LK, MtB & CP)

AH proposed that all be re-elected. This was seconded by TW and carried nem. con

ELECTION OF A MINUTES SECRETARY, EVENTS SECRETARY AND OBSERVERS' COORDINATOR:

(currently CW-S, BS & IK)

CP proposed that all be re-elected. This was seconded by TW and carried nem. con

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE:

(currently MP, SS, LS-S & TW)

AH informed the Committee that LS-S wished to stand down and proposed that PC be elected in her place. He proposed that the remainder should be re-elected. This was seconded by CW-S and carried nem. con

APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES:

(currently CE representing AONB, no current representative for Quantock farmers)

AH proposed that CE be re-elected. This was seconded by MtB and carried nem. con
Since Nick Gibbons has resigned as their representative, there is no current representative for Quantock farmers.

DRAFT

CONFIRMATION OF OUR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT:

(Lady Gass and Major D White)

AH proposed that their positions be re-confirmed. This was seconded by CP and agreed nem. con

OFFICERS' UPDATES:

CHAIRMAN

Following discussions with the AONB concerning the policing of the hills, it was agreed to circulate members asking them to contact the AONB with details of anti-social behaviour so that records could be kept and passed to the police for positive action. It was noted that in addition to off-road driving, there had been a number of car break-ins recently at Fyne Court and Cothelstone.

Following the recent off-road damage at DWD, it was agreed to build higher banks to act as a deterrent at a cost of £678 subject to agreement from Natural England.

AH noted that a new archaeological site had been found on Frog Hill, near the Withyman's Pool car park.

TREASURER

£17K was held in the current account with the remainder invested.

SECRETARY

14 new family members have joined since December. An appeal has been placed in local publications for more business members and TW offered to help with enhanced listings of business members on the website.

EVENTS

38 members have signed up for the Crowcombe Landscape Garden Walk on 10 June (CW-S to help BS with the walk, PC to help with transporting people back up the hill), 15 for the archaeological walk on 9 May and 14 for the fungi walk on 21 October. It was thought that the autumn talk on fracking would be well attended.

MINUTES ON THE WEBSITE:

AH proposed and MtB seconded that draft Minutes should be published on the website. This was carried by a majority vote.

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

MP's display stand was slightly too large for the gazebo but MP and PC would look at altering the height of the gazebo, with MP taking responsibility.

CW-S confirmed that FoQ has been granted a charity pitch at Dunster Show.

Roger Habgood has offered to repeat his sponsored walk and TW suggested that he was given the same publicity as in 2016.

USE OF DRONES ON FoQ LAND:

AH proposed that drones should not be flown on FoQ land without express permission of the Committee. Drone use would be monitored by the Rangers with information given on the website and in newsletters.

HINKLEY C AND FRACKING:

MP thanked TW for attending the Hinkley meeting on 2 February. The number of employees at Hinkley was increasing rapidly and building to provide accommodation was in progress.

PC was of the opinion that whilst there was significant anti-fracking discussion on social media, there was unlikely to be any fracking activity on the hills in the short term.

PROJECTS:

Nothing to report.

PLANNING UPDATE:

AH reported that FoQ had sent an objection to the proposed build of 7 units at Townsend Farm on the East Quantoxhead Estate and, with the AONB, a formal objection had been lodged against a proposed holiday cottage at Over Stowey.

ITEMS OF REPORT AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING:

MP, CW-S and SS would help AH at the Nether Stowey May Fair on 29 April.

TW suggested that the corporate identity of FoQ should be defined and it was agreed that TW, AH and CW-S would meet to discuss.

NEXT MEETINGS:

12 June 2017

4 September 2017