

FRIENDS OF QUANTOCK

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 June 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 John Fawcett, Mr Philip Comer, Mr Chris Edwards, Mr Iain Kett, Mr Tim Whittingham and Mrs Carol Waterman-Smith (Minutes Secretary)

The Chairman welcomed Dr Jasmine Lucas who had recently become an Observer for FOQ.

The Committee was shown a number of drone 'before and after' photographs of the current CPG car park courtesy of MP.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies for absence were received from Major Denys White and Mr Mike Pitcher.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest.

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2017 AND MATTERS ARISING: The Minutes were approved as a true record of the Meeting and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman reported that the 7 units at Townsend Farm had been approved.

OFFICERS' UPDATES:

CHAIRMAN

AH reported that a Partnership Agreement between FOQ and the AONB for the Partnership Board has been signed. This relates only to the period until the grant has been approved when a further agreement will be sought.

AH read out an email he had received from an investigating officer from the League against Cruel Sports, following an earlier email sent to MtB. Since the hunting rights on FOQ land are not owned by FOQ and since FOQ does not get involved in controversy, AH had declined the meeting requested in the first email and had drafted a reply to the second. Following a discussion on how best to respond without further accusations, AH agreed to re-draft his reply taking into account the comments made.

AH had received a letter from the Forestry Commission giving details of major felling in Great Wood.

TREASURER

Little change from the previous Meeting.

SECRETARY

MtB reported that family membership stood at 540 and business membership at 41.

Disappointingly, the drive to recruit new business members had resulted in only 2 new members from a mailing of 84. Further telephone contact would be made and the list circulated.

EVENTS: BS reported that the archaeology walk with Bob Croft had attracted 15 members and the Crowcombe garden walk had attracted nearly 30. BS had written to Anthony Trollop-Bellew to thank him for giving access to his land for the walk and has received permission for FOQ to undertake some clearing and restoration work in the garden. This could possibly be a joint project with the AONB.

15 members had registered for the Fungi walk in October.

The Nether Stowey Fair stand had resulted in new members and it was hoped that the Dunster Show would do likewise. The Committee agreed on the cost of the Display Stand (£60 to Acanthus for the design work and £291.60 to Marler Haley for printing).

Note – since the Meeting the Halsway Manor Quantock Experience Week has been cancelled due to lack of uptake.

An endurance horse ride is due to take place on the 9 July involving 150 riders crossing FOQ land. AH suggested that if the AONB gave permission, a donation would be requested.

CORPORATE IDENTITY: TW offered to produce a guide on logos, font and layouts to be used on all FOQ publications.

WRITTEN POLICIES: These had been circulated prior to the Meeting and were agreed as drafted.

QUANTOCK FARMERS' REPRESENTATIVE: It was agreed to approach Ben Bartlett who is Chair of the Commoners' Association.

HINKLEY C AND FRACKING: PC had attended a talk by Dr Julie Richardson who believed that the geology of the area would make fracking unlikely.

PROJECTS: CPG car park was on hold until the result of the lottery application is known in October. IK had nothing to report on the Kilve footpath but would write to Lady Dory once more.

PLANNING UPDATE: Nothing to report.

WEBSITE/FACEBOOK/TWITTER: TW reported that Facebook and Twitter were a great success with many followers.

OBSERVER PROGRAMME: IK commented on the lack of feedback from Observers and would consider other ways of obtaining regular reports. It was also felt that two new observers may be needed next year and the possibility of moving observers around was discussed.

ITEMS OF REPORT: It was agreed to a print run of 200 copies of the Walks booklet using TW's corporate branding. These would be for sale at Dunster and other FOQ events. CW-S would look into badges and car stickers.

TW drew attention to the forthcoming Thankful Villages event in Aisholt.

CE reported that E-J Preece has more time available if this can be funded. If FOQ felt able to help with this they could influence how this time was spent. AH was in favour and CE would provide costs.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:

4 September 2017

4 December 2017