

Yateley Common Management Committee Notes

5th March 2025 – 7.00pm Oak Room, Yateley Town Council

Present:

Cllr Bob Harward (Chair YTC.)

Nicki Paton (HCC)

Cllr Tim Davies (HCC)

Cllr Adrian Collett

Gill McCallum (Admin Officer YTC)

In Attendance: 5 members of the public

Apologies:

Zoe Cotton (HIWWT)

Mark Crisp (RSPB)

Jean Cheadle (HIWWT)

1. **Apologies & Welcome**
 - Apologies received from Zoe Cotton (HIWWT), Mark Crisp (RSPB), Jean Cheadle (HIWWT)
 - Those present were welcomed by Cllr Bob Harward and the meeting was opened at 7.00pm
2. **Declarations of Interest**
 - There were no declarations of interest
3. **Notes from previous meeting were accepted as correct**

Matters Arising:- none

Updates – Blackbushe Airport

 - Chris Gazzard confirmed that before Christmas the Planning Inspector indicated a decision would be made on section 106 within 2 weeks. It had been signed off but delayed by HCC. The inspector requested more clarification. Final documents went to inspector today (5th March) and they are waiting for a final decision.
4. **Questions from Local Residents**
 - A resident mentioned that toad crossing signage needs to be moved.
 - A resident commented on the state of Yateley Pond, the spawn is down but Darby Green is doing well and most have managed to cross. Identified Great Crested Newts in Yateley Pond. 5 new patrollers have been taken on and she asked whether this could be publicised.
 - A resident asked whether the surveyors taking the count could be more obvious and wear identifiable clothing. Nicki Paton responded that residents were welcome to volunteer and were encouraged to make themselves known when logging numbers for the count.
 - David Taeger identified himself as a resident of Little Vigo, an unadopted road. He commented that the residents have done their best to keep it useable and not overgrown with brambles. He mentioned that the Blackbushe Airport team used to help in the past. He went on to say that the residents are getting older and need more help. He asked if Rangers might be interested however, Nicki Paton confirmed it is not their land. Cllr Davies suggested the Council could adopt the road however this would be expensive. He also suggested laying a gravel track, but Chris Gazzard thought this was not an ideal solution. Residents have received quotes of £15000 per house to adopt road but they think it is too expensive. Highways advised laying mot type 1 aggregate, but this is not ideal. Some discussion followed regarding types of material suitable. Mr Taeger asked why Blackbushe Airport couldn't assist and Chris Gazzard confirmed that Blackbushe owns the outer road only. Mr Taeger suggested that part of the road is owned by Hart but Cllr Davies disagreed. Chris Gazzard mentioned that there are no digital maps. His understanding is that it is Common Land right up to the house boundaries. He went on to confirm that it is not in their interest to maintain road. Cllr Davies agreed to double check with Hampshire who owns the land and when ownership is confirmed help may be focused. Chris Gazzard commented that Blackbushe sub-let runways to RSPB and this is managed by volunteers. There are no TPO's on trees around road/houses. Nicki Paton asked whether Blackbushe might consider helping with tree clearance, no response was noted.

5.	Site Managers report - Nicki Paton went through her report previously sent out to all with the agenda. - Cllr Collett asked whether an archaeology report had been done, and Nicki Paton confirmed that there were not many volunteers and no active investigations taking place at present. Cllr Davies confirmed that Reading University were doing some work, and they may be interested in extending it to Yateley Common.
6.	HIWWT report - Cllr Davies commented that there was no mention of smooth snakes, and a resident commented that they were more likely to be slow worms. - A resident commented on the decimation of adders by fires.
7.	RSPB Felling Proposal Report - A resident commented on the on-going problems with quad bikes and fires. - Cllr Collett asked about Nightjars, but Nicki Paton couldn't comment on what Mark Crisp's response would be.
8.	Any Other Business - Cllr Davies asked about VE Day commemoration by Blackbushe Airport. Chris Gazzard said he was giving it some thought but would probably pass it on to the heritage volunteers to organise something. Cllr Davies suggested contacting the French Airforce. - Cllr Collett asked whether the date of the meetings could be changed to the 2nd Wednesday of the month as meeting clashes with Fleet Council. Consensus was that there was no objection to change. (Cllr Collett has since retired from the council).
9.	Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at the Oak Room, Yateley Town Council Wednesday 5th November 2025 Wednesday 4th March 2026

The meeting closed at 20:10hrs