

Yateley Common Management Committee Notes

5th November 2024 – 7.00pm Oak Room, Yateley Town Council

Present: Cllr Bob Harward (Chair YTC.) Nicki Paton (HCC) Jean Cheadle (HCC) Cllr Tim Davies (HCC) Gill McCallum (Admin Officer YTC)	In Attendance: 5 members of the public Apologies: David Boddy (HIWWT) Cllr Adrian Collett (HCC) Mark Crisp (RSPB)
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1.	Apologies & Welcome - Apologies received from David Boddy (HIWWT), Cllr Adrian Collett (HCC), Mark Crisp (RSPB) - 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 went through his report. He confirmed the visit from Planning Inspector which had taken place the previous week, when he did a site walk. There was no allowance for questions at that time. Chris confirmed that the Planning Inspector wouldn't be away up to the Christmas period and therefore he hoped there would be no more delays. - Cllr Davies asked about dates and Chris confirmed it should be before January 2025.
4.	Questions from Local Residents - A member of the public thanked wardens for clearing ditches. - A member of the public asked what would be happening with redundant scrap yard. Cllr Harwood confirmed it is currently in limbo, and he will be keeping a close eye on its use. He also stated that there would be possible contamination issues if there were a change of use. Cllr Davies voiced his concerns on a county level that the ex-operators have another scrap yard in Blackwater Valley. The concern is that they may set up another limited company and there were major concerns over contaminants. Chris Gazzard mentioned that a crane had been on site without due notice but also confirmed it would be cleared. He went on to say that it isn't Common land but was curious why it had never been registered and there is an argument to say that it should be. The Scrapyard has been there for approximately 60 years. Cllr Harward confirmed that it was put in after the war for clear up purposes. A member of the public suggested it was originally owned by Blondie Malborne. The conversation then went on to classic cars. - A member of the public voiced their concerns about gulls in the woods next to Castle Bottom and Eversley Common and asked if there any plans to deal with the gulls when the land is filled with construction material. Cllr Harward went on to mention that some species of gulls are currently considered at risk. Nicki Paton confirmed that a 20-year bird survey was due to take place and therefore up to date numbers should be available at that time. There are approximately 20 different birds on the list of birds which are surveyed across the Common and Castle Bottom. Chris Gazzard mentioned that he has noticed more birds including gulls at the airport and confirmed that a fire truck is being used to clear the birds.
5.	Site Managers report - Nicki Paton went through her report and mentioned how busy the team have been. The report outlined the regular work taking place, in addition there has been a lot taking place behind the scenes. - The Rights of Way diversion is finished at the west of Cricket Hill Lane. Local ramblers helped with the work. Bollards have been put in on Vigo and Cricket Hill Lane. Ramblers

	have also put in way markers. Routes updated on OS maps and due to be completed very soon. • High level stewardship – not much herb control this year but as the product used in the past is no longer on the market they will not be using this method in future. Hand control to be used but there are concerns that ground and ground nesting birds will be in danger. They are unsure how they will be dealing with bracken in future. Scrub clearance is continuing over the winter period. Contractors will be coming in to deal with the heather. • East end under the archaeology section has been scraped. The county archaeologist has agreed the work can continue. The ditch regularly floods on north side of Reading Road so hopefully this will alleviate problems. • Nicki thanked all volunteers this year • Big Spring Clean will take place 3rd March 2025 • Cllr Davies asked the reason for scrapes and Nicki Paton confirmed it is mainly to benefit bees and wasps. • Cllr Davies mentioned Edenbrook SANG and Reading University archaeological survey and asked whether Adam Green would be returning. • Cllr Phelps-Jones asked mentioned that there are many more volunteers and Nicki Paton responded that it was due to advertising. • Cllr Davies asked about the rhododendron and ragwort work. Nicki Paton responded that they are good pollinators, and Cllr Davies voiced his concerns that they are poisonous to ponies and Nicki Paton responded that they are being controlled.
6.	HIWWT report • Cllr Harward confirmed that the report had been read by all attendees • Cllr Davies asked how many Exmoor ponies are currently grazing and Nicki Paton confirmed that there are six neutered ponies.
7.	RSPB Felling Proposal Report • Cllr Harward mentioned they are following up on their work and would be good to have more groups concerned. Cllr Phelps-Jones went on the recent walk and mentioned how informative it was. Chris Gazzard mentioned that Perry track difficult to get fire engines on
8.	Any Other Business • None
9.	Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 5th March 2025 at the Oak Room, Yateley Town Council Wednesday 2nd July 2025 Wednesday 5th November 2025

The meeting closed at 19:30hrs.