

Yateley Common Management Committee Notes

Wednesday 1st November 2023 – 7.00pm Oak Room, Yateley Town Council

Present:

Cllr Bob Harward (Chair YTC.)
 Cllr Pam Phelps-Jones (YTC)
 Cllr Adrian Collett (HCC)
 Nicki Paton (HCC)
 Gill McCallum (Admin Officer YTC)

In Attendance:

9 members of the public
 Chris Gazzard (Manager BAL)
 Mark Crisp (RSPB)

Apologies:

David Boddy (HIWWT)

1. **Apologies & Welcome**
 - Apologies received from David Boddy
 - Those present were welcomed by Cllr Bob Harward and the meeting was opened at 7.05pm
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 the Schedule 2 application is ongoing. Section 6 Land Exchange – Stakeholders have been invited to a non-statutory pre-application consultation meeting and they are waiting for responses. The plan is to return the land to a natural state to be held for 15 years. Consultation will take place over the next 4 to 5 weeks followed by meetings followed by the public enquiry. The management of the disused runway. Cllr Harward commented that he attended a recent planning meeting where the committee were broadly positive and felt in line with the proposed plans.
4. **Questions from residents**
 - A resident asked whether an ecological study would take place on the land exchange area. Cllr Harward confirmed it would come under the consultation process. Chris Gazzard responded that there were no plans for an independent study however an ecological statement would be made. Surveys are due to take place on biodiversity, no controversial assessments are anticipated.
 - A resident asked for clarification regarding properties included in the consultation process as he wasn't a Commoner. Chris Gazzard confirmed that the invitations were sent to addresses listed on the original Common Land register and gave his apologies if the information was out of date, he commented that the register appeared vague. Cllr Collett asked whether BAL had adopted a broader view when sending out any paperwork, Chris Gazzard agreed this was the case. Cllr Collett asked whether an address may have been missed and Chris Gazzard responded that there is no current definitive list and perhaps HCC could look to updating it. HCC have since confirmed that there are no plans to do so at present.
 - Cllr Collett asked why the term re-wilding couldn't be used and Nicki responded that re-wilding is on a much larger scale.
 - A resident asked Chris Gazzard whether Commoners objections would be considered of higher importance than others and Chris Gazzard confirmed that comments would be treated with more weight. Cllr Collett commented that the Planning Inspectorate would have more detailed information and the value of all arguments would be considered.
 - A resident commented that Commoners rights remain in place and don't lapse. Chris Gazzard confirmed that fundamental rights do apply however, valid reasons for any objection would have to apply.
 - A resident sent in an email question regarding the missing bin opposite Green Lane. Cllr Harward confirmed that the base had been found and therefore the top would be replaced. He confirmed the siting of the bin could be moved, ideally to the entrance. He confirmed that he would check with HDC.

5.	Site Managers Report - Nicki Paton went through report briefly after confirming that it had been read by all attendees. - A member of the public asked when the scrub clearance would take place. Following the meeting Nicki Paton confirmed it would take place after Christmas/early January and would take approximately 3 to 4 weeks. - Cllr Collett asked whether Paul Wright would require a compound location for the cemetery work and were they looking at the parking area at Heathlands. He went on to say that only a small area should be required for the compound, and he anticipated that the public would not be inconvenienced as a sensible approach would be taken with regards to considering funerals and public access.
6.	HIWWT report Cllr Harward thanked David Boddy for his report and confirmed that all in attendance had read it.
7.	Any Other Business - Nicki Paton introduced Mark Crisp representing RSPB and he was welcomed by Cllr Collett and Cllr Haward. Mark confirmed he was looking forward to working with BAL. He went on to say they are looking to employ a volunteer. He also confirmed that the Pathfinder meeting has taken place, and they would be communicating fully with the public. - There followed some discussion about the history of Blackbushe Airport. - Cllr Phelps-Jones asked whether BAL would be commemorating D Day next year. Chris Gazzard confirmed that there were plans to do something but not confirmed yet.
8.	Next Meeting Date: Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at the Oak Room, Yateley Town Council Wednesday 6th November 2024 Wednesday 5th March 2025

The meeting closed at 20:00hrs