

**COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD**  
**MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD ON SUNDAY 29 APRIL 2018**

Present: Diane Carr - Chairman/Director  
Sue Garvey - Treasurer/Director  
Paul Whitby - Director  
Dr. John Owen - Director  
Katie and Mark Bradley - Committee members  
Irene Barclay - Committee member  
Dave Townshend - Director/White Swan  
Tim Walsh - Director/White Swan Piscatorials  
Plus 28 Members

Apologies: Rob McCulloch - Accountant  
Audrey Court

1) Introduction - Diane Carr - Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM of Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd. For the benefit of new members the committee were introduced and the minutes from last year's AGM were signed and accepted. It was pointed out that these minutes are always posted on our web site and also any photographs taken by members.

2) Resignation and Reinstatement of Directors and Committee Members - Dr John Owen

As called for in the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, the Directors and Committee members are required to resign from office at the AGM. All were willing to stand for a further term. As there were no objections from the floor, this was passed and accepted.

3) Financial Report – Sue Garvey: We ended last year with £33,441.10 held in the Cofton Lake Conservation accounts at Lloyds Bank, Northfield.  
Subscriptions received for the year were £2444 and we received £13.30 interest.

The funds, as you know, are to cover the cost of ground and boundary maintenance etc., and also our annual insurance, and anything else that may unexpectedly crop up in the future. The cost of grass cutting has stayed the same as last year which is £50 per cut.

The subscription payments received so far are considerably better than last year, although we are still outstanding several payments. This makes very hard work of something which should be so simple.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who gave donations in addition to the £12 maintenance subscription.

A copy of our accounts is available for you to see.

4) Chairman's Report - Diane Carr - We welcome the new members here today. We will always have new members as houses become empty and new people move in. Three houses in the last couple of months have become empty. Two of these had a share and it was agreed that the share in the lake be sold with the house which just means we destroy the original share certificate and issue a new one in the name of the new owners. One of the houses recently sold did not own a share. When we originally purchased this lake it was impossible to raise enough money from just the residents so shares were sold to anyone interested in conservation. I know I have said this before but it is important that people backing onto the lake know that if it had not been for these people, not all living in Cofton I might add, this lake could not have been purchased. The distribution of shares is:

Houses backing onto lake 23%

Fishing Club 36%

Others 41%

Every time a house around the lake becomes empty I get phone calls from either the estate agent or solicitor wanting to know the procedure re the share. As I tell them, the share is owned by the person not the house - if they want to take it with them when they move they can. It was for this reason that when we initially bought the lake it was agreed that any house backing onto the lake without a share would be able to buy one.

The committee had a meeting earlier this week and it was agreed that the south side of the lake was extremely muddy and slabs are to be purchased to help access to this area. It was also agreed to ask our tree surgeon to take a look and inspect some of the trees.

We are always looking for volunteers! You don't have to always help at the fishing club work parties, in fact it would help when you walk around the lake you take plastic bags and collect some of the Himalayan balsam - we will never get rid of it but if we all do our bit it will help.

We are also looking for volunteers to help preserve and repair some of the benches. Perhaps anyone willing could let us know.

Irene is going to find out the exact price and dimensions of the duck island. Julie Holmes has offered to contribute towards this, for which we thank her.

We are always pleased to get suggestions from members and one suggestion is that we ask people to donate concrete or wooden animals and install them around the area. Animals that are around the lake - or birds - and a list put in the notice board - something for the children, and adults, to spot when they are walking round.

The Neighbourhood Watch have reported that some of the houses backing onto the lake in Ashmead have had their garden sheds broken into and tools stolen. The Police have been informed. It is not known where they got in, could have been via the lake. All our fences to be checked this coming season and repaired where necessary. If anyone sees anything suspicious around the area please let either the NW or a committee member know.

It was agreed at our meeting not to increase the annual subs and as Sue says some people already pay more than the £12 for which we thank you. We need to keep some money back for possible repairs at a later date to the boardwalk and also the bridge.

I now hand you over to Dave for the Fishing Club report:

5) Fishing Club Report Dave Townshend White Swan Piscatorials: -

The night fishing syndicate had been busy throughout the year clearing pathways and cutting back fallen trees. Working parties organized by the fishing club are Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday 12 August and Sunday 14 October. Any member wishing to help would be welcome. We meet in the car park area around 9.30.

Following the removal of the islands, concern was raised regarding the lack of cover for the fish. Various options had been discussed but so far no decision had been made.

6) Open Forum:

Concern was expressed re the Skunk Cabbage around the boardwalk. It was agreed that as long as it was contained in this area it should be left alone although a few that had been seen around the lake away from the boardwalk to be taken out.

A comment was made re the cover for the fish and it was suggested planting lilies in certain areas. This was thought a good idea.

Mr. Ted Brookfield commented on his pleasure at being able to walk around this lake as he remembers visiting it with his parents when he was a small boy in the 40's. Ted thanked the committee for all their hard work and handed over a cheque for £100 towards maintenance for which we thank him.

7) Date of next AGM - Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019 4.00 pm at The Oak Tree, Rednal.

As always it just leaves me to say a few thank yous.

Thanks to Simon Munn who looks after our website. To Rob our Accountant - I would point out they do this work voluntarily. Thanks to the fishing club for maintaining the pathways. Thanks also to the Directors and Committee members for their continued support - and last but not least to you all for attending today. See you next year.

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NOTE: Please note that as from 25<sup>th</sup> May the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) come into effect designed to provide individuals with greater control over how their personal data is collected and used. Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd store email addresses, phone numbers and addresses for its members. If you are happy for us to continue holding your information you don't need to do anything. However, if you no longer wish us to contact you either by email or telephone please let us know. Please note that Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd DO NOT share the information we hold with any other parties.

Signed.....

Date.....