

## COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD

### MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD ON SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> FEB 2007

Present: Diane Carr – Director/Secretary  
Sue Garvey – Director/Treasurer  
Colin Jones – Director/Groundsman  
John Owen - Director  
Simon Munn – Web Site Co-ordinator  
Mark & Kate Bradley  
Dave Townshend – Director – White Swan Piscatorials  
Ian Marsdon - ditto –  
Geoff Smith – White Swan Piscatorials

The Secretary opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and welcoming new members and introducing the Committee. A note pad was past around the room for signatures and e-mail addresses.

Secretary's Report: Diane Carr

As you will have read in the Newsletter Planning Permission has now been granted and work has started on the building of the bridge. British Waterways have a small leak in the dam wall and as soon as this is repaired the bridge can be installed. It is hoped that this will be sometime during the spring. Once this is complete work will be started on the boardwalk.

Thanks to Mark Bradley and his brother-in-law for installing the fencing which has been erected on the South boundary between the lake area and the field and 100 blackthorn, dog rose and holly shrubs have been planted along the fence. These seem to be doing well but more will be planted in the Autumn.

Thanks to Simon Munn who has done a wonderful job on the setting up of the website which is now up and running. Our web address is: [www.coftonlake.org.uk](http://www.coftonlake.org.uk).

No Swimming notices have been purchased and will be erected during the next couple of weeks. No Parking signs are also to be ordered for the main gate as this entrance is constantly being obstructed by parked cars.

One thing that needs verifying. We must point out that the 'share' is owned by the person who purchased it and not necessarily part of the house when sold. This has caused some confusion recently and some house sales have been held up by Solicitors wanting Articles of Association. Copies of the Articles of Association are available for anyone to see on request. When a house is sold the sale of the 'share' is to be treated as a separate sale. The seller should return the Share Certificate to the Committee and a new Certificate be issued in the name of the new owner together with our Welcome Letter and the list of Rules and Regulations. The seller's name is then taken off the list of share holders and the new owner's name inserted.

RESIGNATION AND REINSTATEMENT OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS –  
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 and as all were willing to stand for a further term, it was proposed that the current Directors and Committee continue for a further year. As there were no objections from the floor, this was passed and accepted. It was pointed out that any member who was interested in joining the Committee to get in touch with a Committee member.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT – SUE GARVEY

The Treasurer reported that £515 interest had been received during 2006 and a little under £1700 in subscriptions giving a total income of just over £2,200. This with other funds already held in the Cofton Lake Conservation account at Lloyds Bank leaves us funds for last year of just over £24,000.

These 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. Last year we spent £573 on boundary fencing and hedging.

We are still endeavouring to start construction of the bridge at the Stocken end and also the walkway at the Barnt Green End of the lake area. Our current finances will be sufficient to cover these costs. Last year we spent £1130 on materials, planning permission and construction calculations on for the bridge and boardwalk.

Currently, we have a shortfall of some 20 subscriptions. Hopefully, these will be received shortly. I am sure that you will appreciate the prolems involved in chasing unpaid subscriptions.

Following the Financial Report the Secretary pointed out that a bill had been received from the Accountant for £470 for the year end accounts. As we have a Chartered Accountant as one of our members he has kindly offered to take over this role free of charge. Graham Herbert was then introduced and thanked for his kind offer.

#### WEBSITE – SIMON MUNN

Simon had kindly brought along his laptop and projector and all present were impressed with the work he had done so far. The format of the web-site was explained and photographs shown. Simon asked for any photographs, history, or interesting information to be forwarded to him for inclusion. The web site address is [www.coftonlake.org.uk](http://www.coftonlake.org.uk) Our thanks were expressed to Simon for his time and commitment in organising this site.

#### REPORT ON BRIDGE/BOARDWALK – COLIN JONES

Colin explained how the bridge was being constructed and asked for volunteers to help with the erection once it is complete. Colin pointed out that the exact positioning of the boardwalk had not been determined but it seemed the best place was across the water and not across the marsh area. It was hoped work on this to be started once the bridge is complete.

It had been noted that dogs had been fouling the area and Colin pointed out that as stated in the Rules, dogs should only be allowed in the area supervised and to be kept on a lead and that any dog fouling should be cleared up immediately by the dog's owner.

#### WHITE SWAN PISCATORIALS – IAN MARSON

Ian reported that the Fishing Club were having problems with Cormorants. They were increasing in number and if they continue to increase they could jeopardise the fishing of this lake. The Fishing Club have spent a considerable amount of money on stocking this lake and something has to be done. Various options had been considered. The islands had been introduced to the area in order to give the fish some protection. Ian pointed out that these islands take some years before they are mature. Once mature the top layer of netting should be obscured. It may be necessary to introduce 3 more islands. A licence had been applied for to shoot one or two of the Cormorants. By doing this it is believed the rest will leave. It is not yet known if a licence will be granted.

The Secretary pointed out that next year's AGM will be held a little later in the year, maybe March or April. This is in order to get the Accounts for the previous year prepared. The year end is 31<sup>st</sup> December.

A phone call had been received only yesterday from the Animal Sanctuary in Tewkesbury where the ducks came from, to say they had three baby hedgehogs desperately needing a home. They are being collected today and introduced to the lake sometime tomorrow.

The meeting was closed by thanking all who had helped with work during the year, the continued support of the Committee members and for you all for attending.