

COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12TH October 2011

Present: Diane Carr – Chairman/Director
Sue Garvey – Treasurer/Director
Colin Jones – Director
Paul Whitby
Irene Barclay
Katie & Mark Bradley
Dave Townshend – Director/White Swan Piscatorials
Geoff Smith – Director/ White Swan Piscatorials

Apologies: Dr. John Owen – Director
Simon Munn

The Committee was sorry that due to other commitments Simon Munn had resigned from the Committee. Simon did offer to continue to host the web site for which the Committee was extremely grateful.

1) Pathways around the Southern shore of the Lake

The committee thanked the Fishing Club and also the volunteers who had helped in recent months to clear the pathways around the lake. However concerns had been expressed regarding the pathway along the south side of the lake which in some areas was hazardous and impossible for elderly members to access. A quote had been submitted from a contractor to clear a pathway with a digger along the more hazardous areas. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that a member from the fishing club together with committee members meet the contractor to talk through his suggestions. It was pointed out that the area was a conservation area and not a 'park'. Diane to contact the contractor and arrange a meeting on site.

2) Islands - It was agreed by all that the islands were an eyesore. The fishing club said a solution to this problem was in hand but could not be implemented until the water level was higher in order that the islands could be taken out and re made.

3) Planks on Boardwalk - This was agreed. Geoff Smith to measure length of boardwalk in order that planks can be priced.

4) Water Level -The lake is filling up but concern was expressed regarding the slight leak in the lower valve. An e-mail had been received from BW stating that the slow filling of the lake was mostly due to the unusually dry year we have had so far. In their opinion the amount leaking from the lower valve matched or even exceeded the low inflow amount. BW to be asked to notify CLCL when their inspection of the valves next takes place. The whole committee agreed that it should be pointed out to BW that they will be liable once again should these valves not work correctly. We suggest that a member of CLCL be present when this bi annual check takes place. Colin had suggested to the BW Engineer that maybe the solution be a rubber spring bung. The Engineer was going to investigate – Colin to chase this up. The Fishing Club expressed their disappointment at the amount of gravel BW had delivered for the repair of the car park. Geoff told the committee that originally 20-ton was promised and all that had arrived was a couple of barrow loads! David suggested that if

more gravel was not forthcoming from BW, hardcore could be purchased very cheaply from SE Davies at Redditch.

5) Benches - Thanks were given to the volunteers who turned up to erect the three benches. One more bench is still to be erected at the top of the boardwalk – supplied and erected by Colin. It was agreed that a picnic table be purchased and installed midway between bench 1 and 2 on the south shore. It was also agreed that all these benches be securely fixed by stake and chain or brackets.

6) General Maintenance - The Himalayan Balsam had taken over in many areas and it was agreed that a volunteer's working party be arranged for the Spring to help reduce this for the coming season. The fishing club agreed to carry out some work on the coppice. Colin reported that a tree was in desperate need of felling and that anyone who wanted logs could willingly collect.

7) Notice Board - The fishing club agreed that their notice board could be used for photographs taken around the lake. Diane and Irene to inspect the notice board and paint if necessary. Geoff to pass on a spare key.

8) Newsletter - Diane asked David for a report from the Fishing Club for insertion in the next Newsletter which is due to come out in early December. Please note that the lock number is due to change on 1st January and a new number needs to be included in the Newsletter.

9) Date for AGM - Sunday 22nd April 2012 at 4.00 pm in Cofton Hackett Village Hall.

10) A.O.B

a) Diane suggested that it would be useful to have a brief written report on the website of the history of Cofton Lake, its origins etc. John Dale to be asked to help with this report.

b) Colin reported that vehicles were still driving across the grass from the car park. The fishing club to look into installing posts with chain link fencing.

c) Subs are due in January and Sue pointed out that there were still two which had not been received from Jan 2011! It was agreed that if these subs are not received in Jan 2012 the share be cancelled and re-sold. Diane suggested help this coming year in collecting the subs and would issue a rota for collection in the New Year.

Thanks to all who attended – The next Committee Meeting will be held prior to the AGM in Mch/Apl 2012 – date to be arranged.