

COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD

Minutes of 7th AGM held on Sunday 22nd April 2012 at Cofton Hackett Village Hall

Present: Diane Carr – Chairman/Director
Sue Garvey – Treasurer/Director
Colin Jones – Director
John Owen – Director
Irene Barclay
Paul Whitby
Dave Townshend – Director/White Swan Piscatorials
Geoff Smith – Director/White Swan Piscatorial
Apologies: Graham Herbert – Accountant
Katie and Mark Bradley
Pat and Colin Worthing

1) Introduction – Diane Carr – For the benefit of new members the committee were introduced and the minutes taken at last year's AGM accepted, approved and signed.

2) Financial Report – Sue Garvey – We ended last year with £18,630.00 in the Cofton Lake Conservation account held at Lloyds Bank, Longbridge. Subscriptions received for the year were £1975 and we received £6.80 interest. The funds, as you know, are to cover the cost of ground and boundary maintenance etc., and also our annual public liability insurance and anything else that may unexpectedly crop up in the future. The cost of grass cutting has gone up for this year by another £1.00 per cut. 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 of those who gave donations in addition to the £12 maintenance subscription.

3) 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 at the AGM. All were willing to stand for a further term apart from Simon Munn who has resigned from the Committee due to his increased work load. The Committee thank Simon for his help over the years and thank him for offering to continue to host our web site. This is much appreciated. As there were no objections from the floor, this was passed and accepted.

4) Trees/Hedgerows – Colin Jones – Colin thanked the Fishing Club members for their work carried out widening the pathways along the south bank. Eventually these pathways will be graveled in order to keep them clear. Gravel can be transported in the boat. Boathouse and jetty should be completed within the next few weeks depending on the weather. It should be noted that this jetty is not for general fishing and should only be used for disabled fishing. Once again we are battling with the increase in the Himalayan Balsom. Colin asked if members, whilst walking around the lake, could break off the heads of these plants

preferably before they seed. One area that is particularly infested is on the south bank at the start of the boardwalk. This area will have to be sprayed in order to keep it under control.

5) Fishing Club Report – Dave Townshend – The Fishing Club have completed the re stocking of the lake. Unfortunately some of the fish had died – this does happen when they are moved. £27,000 had been given by British Waterways to cover the cost of replacing and relocating the fish. No more stocking is now needed. Now that the water level is back to normal the islands will be replanted – the first two within the next month or so. Fishing club have a general maintenance work party scheduled for 27th May and would welcome additional help from members.

The Chairman reported that the lake was now full and an e-mail had been sent to British Waterways pointing out our concerns about the national lack of water in our canals and reservoirs and asking what future plans they had for any draw down of water from Cofton. A reply had been received stating that they are currently undertaking schemes to refill reservoirs by pumping from available water sources, leak stopping and undertaking other water efficiency schemes in order to get the canal system through the summer boating season. There were no immediate plans to draw water from Cofton but a new contact name was given and this matter will be pursued.

The 3 benches were now in place, thanks to the volunteers who helped in putting them in place. Three more benches are needed. Two on the south bank and one on the bank overlooking the boardwalk.

Scaffolding boards are to be ordered to span the boardwalk to enable dogs easy access.

Irene and Alex Barclay have kindly started to re furbish the notice board. They have laminated pictures of various plants and wildlife in the area and these will be displayed in the notice board once it is finished.

An e-mail had been received via the website from one of our members regarding possible development on the fields adjoining the lake. This has been looked into and although two possible plans for 39 houses have been drawn up no application has yet been lodged with Bromsgrove Council. This land is green belt and a Government ruling does state that no green belt land be built on. This rule to be reconsidered in 2021.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked the Fishing Club for their hard work, the Committee Members, Treasurer and Accountant and to all members for their continued support.

NEXT AGM – Date to be advised in the next Newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE: IT WAS OMITTED TO THANK COLIN JONES AND HIS SON MATT FOR ALL THEIR HARD WORK IN BUILDING THE JETTY AND BOAT HOUSE. MANY MEMBERS HAVE COMMENTED ON WHAT A WONDERFUL JOB THEY HAVE MADE OF IT. FROM THE COMMITTEE AND ALL OUR MEMBERS OUR HEART FELT THANKS.
