

COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LIMITED
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT 19 COFTON LAKE ROAD
ON THURSDAY 28TH JULY 2005

PRESENT: Keith Newbery – Chairman
Diane Carr – Secretary
Sue Garvey – Treasurer
Colin Jones
John Owen
Kate & Mark Bradley
David Townshend – White Swan Piscatorials
Ian Marson - - ditto -

The minutes of the meeting held in the Village Hall on 19th June were read and signed.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the fence/hedgerow along the southern boundary adjoining the field and prior to the meeting the Committee walked along this boundary to determine what action should be taken. Keith Newbery was of the opinion that a mesh fence be erected but did agree that the whole area did not need doing as most of it was so overgrown it was impenetrable.

The following is a report written and read out by Diane Carr regarding this hedgerow.

“Although I agree that this area should be made as safe and impenetrable as possible and the hedgerow/fence along the south boundary needs attention, I feel a natural hedgerow would be better than a mesh fence.

I have been in touch with a Mr. Bissell from the largest fencing specialists in the Midlands. Mr. Bissell is an expert on this type of hedgerow/fencing and has worked in this field for over 30 years. He does not recommend mesh fencing. He suggests a stock wire fence attached to the godfathers that are already there surrounded by quick growing Hawthorne or similar. He knows someone who would carry out this work for us and in his opinion the maximum it is likely to cost would be £2000. This price however was for the full span and would be less if only the gaps were filled in. I will arrange for this company to visit the site and get a written quotation.

I have also spoken to Gordon Britton from Barnt Green Sailing/Fishing Club who also confirmed that hawthorne, blackthorne or similar was far better than mesh fencing. They had had their fencing cut on numerous occasions and he was surprised that the mesh fencing along the stocken had not been cut before now.

I had a phone call from a resident in Ashmead Rise stating that 4 youths were swimming in the lake. They had climbed over the mesh fence by the bridge and not through the field. I suggest that notices be put along the stocken and in the hedgerow stating that this is private property and trespassers will be prosecuted.

Interest from the money in the deposit account is needed to pay for the insurance premium and to pay out such a large amount on something that is not completely necessary is a waste of money.

Our priority should now be to a) Erect 'No Entry' posters

b) Ensure that the owners of the field block up the gap in the hedge along the stocken and their field.

c) Build the bridge in order that the small gate can be closed off (which is where most of the trespassers get through)

I would point out that everyone participating in the purchase of this area did so in order to preserve it and to keep it as a natural bird and animal sanctuary and a wire fence will not only be an eyesore it will hinder the wildlife"

David and Ian from the fishing club stated that as long as the area was made as secure as possible they were in agreement with a natural hedgerow but would like to be present when the company visit the site. It was therefore unanimously agreed that a quotation be obtained for a natural hedgerow.

Sue Garvey said maybe a grant could be obtained towards the cost of a natural hedgerow. This to be looked into.

John Owen had been in touch with our Insurers and they had confirmed that should anyone break into the area and get injured and then sue, our Public Liability policy would cover us.

Trees

Diane reported that a large willow had died and fallen on the south bank. Fortunately no-one was walking the path at the time. The path was blocked but had now been cleared by the Fishing Club. Diane suggested that a tree expert should be called in to inspect the other trees in the area.

Bridge

Enquiries to be made to ascertain if planning permission is required and also approval obtained from British Waterways.

Marsh

Although the committee feel that this area should be 'bridged' – this to be discussed at a future meeting.

Web Site Address

John Owen had organised a web address.

Next Meeting - Tuesday 4th October at 19 Cofton Lake Rd at 8.00pm