

COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN COFTON VILLAGE
HALL ON SUNDAY 19TH JUNE 2005

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

The meeting was opened by Keith Newbery who thanked everyone for coming and prior to reading out the list of items to be discussed from the Agenda, asked for the Treasurer's report:

All the shares had been sold and there was now a waiting list of potential purchasers. A total of £24,690.00 was in hand, £24,000 of this was being held in an interest bearing account which gives us just over £45.00 per month. This interest was to be used for the Public Liability Insurance annual renewal. All our financial commitments have been met to date.

ITEMS UNDER DISCUSSION

1. Donation of benches: It was pointed out that various members had requested permission to donate a bench. It was agreed that picnic tables and benches would be better in the car park area. Diane Carr to get in touch with the Victoria Pub in Barnt Green as they were due for refurbishment and it may be possible to purchase a few of their garden tables. A few wooden benches to be placed around the lakeside. Positioning must be approved by the committee.
2. Car Parking: The car park area to be extended and some sort of fencing erected in order to stop vehicles driving along the north bank. The fishing club are dealing with this matter. The grass cutting contractor had been and cut the grass along the banks. The fishing club are intending to make a disabled access point near to the car park.

3. Floating Islands: These have now been installed and the reeds seem to have started growing. The fishing club funded these islands and although they will be a haven for the birds their prime purpose is as a refuge for the fish.
4. Date for Stocking of Fish: Due to the late arrival of the floating islands and the length of time the lake has taken to re-fill, the stocking of the fish will now have to be delayed until September/October as the fish cannot be moved at this time of year. The fishing club are stocking with carp, roach, tench, rudd and perch.
5. Felling of Trees: The fishing club had had 5 or 6 working parties removing dead trees and generally tidying up the banks. Secretary had had a letter from a resident backing onto the lake requesting permission to cut down and tidy up the hedge. As Colin Jones has a wide knowledge of working on a wildlife park, he has been appointed liaison officer between the residents and the Committee and any requests for trimming to be put to him. (Telephone Numbers of Committee Members at the end of these minutes)
6. Clearing of Pathways: A petrol strimmer had been purchased and the committee and members thanked Colin Jones who had already started work on clearing the pathways.
7. Construction of Bridge: Keith Newbery had received a quote of £3000 for the making of a bridge over the dam wall. This price did not include installation but it was thought that volunteers from members would be adequate although further quotes are being obtained. A letter had been received from the Bromsgrove Council and it stated that planning permission may be needed. This to be looked into.
8. Construction of 'Walk-Way' over Bog Area: Keith Newbery had had a quote of £8000 for this work. Colin Jones suggested railway sleepers. Although it was generally felt that this work should be carried out in the future, it was decided to put it on hold for the time being until more investigation had been carried out.
9. Locks on both Gates: Some members were having difficulty with the locks. The lock on the main gate, once the number has been put in, has to be 'squeezed' top to bottom, before it will open. The code number on the lock on the main gate had been given out


to children under 16. Keith Newbery pointed out that no children to be allowed in the lake area without adult supervision. Due to the continuing problems with these locks it was thought a lock with a key maybe the solution. Colin Jones had had a quote of £30 per lock and £5 per key. These keys could not be copied and could only be obtained from the original supplier which would be additional security. The code number on the small gate had been accidentally changed but once the bridge construction is in place the small gate can be closed permanently and completely fenced off which would once again be more secure.

10. Fencing and Security: A lengthy discussion took place regarding the hedgerow along the southern boundary adjoining the fields. This area has become very overgrown and most of the boundary is impossible to penetrate. However, there are a few gaps in the hedge which will need attention. Keith Newbery had had two quotes for fencing this whole area. The first quote was £20,000 and the second for a smaller fence approximately £9,000. Concern was expressed regarding children who had been seen entering the lake area and it was decided that every possible action be taken to make the site secure. However, children had been seen climbing under the sluice and also over the fence next to the small gate. Diane Carr pointed out that anyone entering through the hedge alongside the field was already trespassing as this field was private property and not a public walkway. Diane Carr to talk to the owners of this field to ask them to repair the fencing from the Stocken into their field and to also put up 'No Trespassing' signs. Sue Garvey stated that the money held in the Company deposit account was needed as the interest being received at present paid the insurance. Concern was expressed regarding our legal responsibility should anyone break into the lake area. Diane Carr stated that the insurance company who had been used for the Public Liability insurance cover, were specialists in Lakes, Rivers and Canals. John Owen to double check with them on our legal responsibilities. It was decided that this item to be dealt with as a matter of urgency.
11. AOB - Diane Carr reported that 11 ducklings had been introduced to the lake area. They had been collected from Vale Bird and Animal Hospital at Tewkesbury and they were settling in very well. Sue Garvey had been in touch with a sanctuary and was hoping to get 2 swans in the near future. Secretary reported that according to the Memorandum and Articles

of Association of the Company an AGM will be called early in 2006. At this AGM existing Directors, Committee members, and Accountant to stand down and either be re-elected or replaced. Anyone interested in joining the committee to let us know well in advance. Diane Carr did say that a twice yearly Newsletter was in the pipeline and Photographs or any items of interest would be most welcome.

Keith Newbery closed the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

Committee Members: Keith Newbery, Chairman – 445 3125
Diane Carr, Secretary – 445 1220
Sue Garvey, Treasurer – 445 1523
Colin Jones – Environment - 445 5436
John Owen – 445 4516
Kate & Mark Bradley – 445 2735
Dave Townshend and Ian Marson – White Swan
Piscatorials


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SIGNED