

COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD
MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD ON SUNDAY 24TH APRIL 2016

Present: Diane Carr – Chairman/Director
Sue Garvey – Treasurer/Director
Paul Whitby – Director
Katie Bradley – Committee Member
Irene Barclay – Committee Member
Alan Hicks – Committee Member
Dave Townshend – Director/White Swan Piscatorials
Tim Walsh – Director/White Swan Piscatorials
22 members present

Apologies: Dr. John Owen – Director
Mark Bradley – Committee Member
Audrey Court – Member

1) Introduction – Diane Carr - Welcome to the 12th AGM of Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd. For the benefit of new members the committee were introduced and the minutes from last year's AGM were signed and accepted. Please note that these minutes are always posted on our web site.

2) In the absence of Dr John Owen Diane Carr carried out the resignation and reinstatement of Directors and Committee members. 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. This year we welcome Tim Walsh as a Director who has taken Geoff Smiths place from the fishing club and also Alan Hicks who has agreed to become a committee member. All other Directors and Committee members are willing to stand for a further term.

Another new face around the table is Rob McCulloch who has kindly offered to take over as our accountant from Graham Herbert who retired last year. Thanks go to Graham for his help and guidance over the 10 years he has acted as our Accountant and we welcome Rob who hopefully can carry on for the next 10!

3) Financial Report – Sue Garvey - We ended last year with £25,143.63 held in the Cofton Lake Conservation account at Lloyds Bank, Northfield. Subscriptions received for the year were £2881 and we received £8.07 interest.

The 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. The cost of grass cutting has gone up this year by £1.00 and so the cost is now £50 per cut.

The 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 those who gave donations in addition to the £12 maintenance subscription.

A copy of our accounts is available for you to see.

4) Chairman's Report – Diane Carr – I am happy to report there have been no major problems during the last year and we are all pleased to note that the bulbs planted in the previous year have all bloomed and are thriving even though we were told they might not bloom in their first year.

Sue and I took a walk around the lake last week and made a few notes of work that needs doing. Some of the benches need a bit of TLC – please, anyone who has donated a bench can you make sure it is looked after.

Lisa Parker from Ashmead Rise would like to erect a bench in memory of her father and the committee have agreed. A suitable spot is to be sought. It would also be rather nice to have another picnic bench on the south side of the lake. This to be put to the committee at the next meeting and a suitable spot found.

We did notice that the wood on the bridge could do with a coat of preserver and would like to hear from anyone willing to volunteer to carry out this work.

I am pleased to say we now have some new younger members who are willing to help on maintenance days and the fishing club have given the dates well in advance which are:-

Sunday 26th June

Sunday 14 August

Sunday 30th October

Please check our web site – these dates will be posted. If you can spare a couple of hours please meet Tim Walsh in the Car Park at 9.30 who will let you know the project for the day.

We are always eager to hear from members with any suggestions they might have for improving the area. Some ideas that have already been put forward are:

- 1) Wildlife night cameras – our very own Springwatch!
- 2) Installation of small hide, probably near the badger set.
- 3) Continuation of pathway to include access to properties at the far end of Reservoir Road and Barnt Green Road. This area is very boggy and in parts a boardwalk would most likely need to be erected. Letters to be sent to people with no share who back onto the lake area and have no fences and are using this boggy area. It is to be pointed out that we have vigorous rules for our members in order to comply with our public liability insurance cover and we cannot be held responsible for anyone trespassing on this site.

All the above will depend on cost, and estimates will be obtained.

I now hand you over to Dave for the Fishing Club Report.

5) Fishing Club Report – Dave Townshend. Not a lot to report. Most items have been covered. All seems to be going well with the night fishing which will continue.

6) Open Forum

Himalayan Balsom is still a problem. Please, anyone walking around the lake pull up as much as you can.

It was pointed out that Skunk Cabbage in the bog area had increased. This to be closely monitored and if it spreads to other parts of the lake to be taken out.

7) A.O.B

It just leaves me to say a few thank you's.

To Simon Munn who looks after our website – also please note we now have a facebook page.

To the Fishing Club for all their hard work in maintaining the pathways and cutting back rotten and fallen trees.

To the Directors and Committee Members for their continued support – and also many thanks to you all for attending today, see you next year.

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Signed

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Date