

COFTON LAKE CONSERVATION LTD
MINUTES OF A.G.M. HELD ON SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2019

Present: Diane Carr - Chairman/Director
Sue Garvey - Treasurer/Director
Paul Whitby - Director
Katie and Mark Bradley - Committee Members
Dave Townshend - Director/White Swan Piscatorials
Tim Walsh - Director/White Swan Piscatorials
Rob McCulloch - Accountant
13 shareholders

Apologies: Dr. John Owen - Director
Irene Barclay - Committee Member

1) Introduction - Diane Carr: Welcome to the 15th AGM of Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd.

The committee were introduced and the minutes from last year's AGM were signed and accepted. It was pointed out that these minutes together with minutes of committee meetings are always posted on our website for members to see.

2) Resignation and Reinstatement of Directors and Committee Members: - Diane Carr:

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. As there were no objections from the floor, this was passed and accepted.

3) Financial Report - Sue Garvey:

We ended last year with £36,888.12 held in the Cofton Lake Conservation accounts at Lloyds Bank, Northfield.

Subscriptions received for the year were £2304 and we received £15.83 interest. This was £2.53 more than last year.

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 increased by £2.00 per cut and the charge is now £52.00 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) Chairmans Report - Diane Carr:

We have had a pretty uneventful year with no major problems. A few houses backing onto the lake have recently become empty and new owners have moved in and shares transferred.

The recent high winds caused a few trees to fall. Some quite large trees and a couple into the lake itself. These are being left for cover for the fish. Some of the trees are very old and we would suggest that later in the year we call in an expert to check for anymore trees that are likely to fall. As its now over 3 years since Paul Yates our tree surgeon had carried out any work it was agreed that he be called in to walk the lake and thin out any areas that need it in order that light can penetrate to help ground growth.

As always we are looking for volunteers. You don't have to always help at the fishing club work parties, in fact it would help if when you walk around the lake you help to reduce the Himalayan Balsam by pulling it up and discarding it in a plastic bag. If we all do a bit it will help. We are also looking for volunteers to help preserve and repair some of the benches. Anyone willing to help please give us your name at the end of the meeting.

The local Neighbourhood Watch reported last week that 15 youths had been seen at Bittell Reservoir vandalizing various items and they had also tied up a horse. Police had been informed and local residents were asked to keep an eye on the lake for intruders.

Sue and I went to the annual Catchment Committee Meeting at Bittell which is attended by representatives from local councils, Parish and County, people from the Environment Agency and St Modwens and also Canal and River Trust. Bittell had been drained due to problems with the valves similar to the problems we had when we first purchased Cofton. It is now however slowly re filling and I did ask CART to let us know whenever they opened our valves in order that we can monitor our water levels. So far this is happening and they are keeping us informed. Apparently when Bittell was drained 500 critically endangered eels were found. They were re homed in the canal system that the reservoir feeds.

May I remind everyone if you want to read any minutes of committee meeting they are always posted on our website together with any photographs taken by members.

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

5) Fishing Club Report - Dave Townshend:

Working parties are schedules for 2nd June - 14th July - 11 August and 13 October. Anyone willing to help please meet in the car park at 9.30. Tools are provided. As previously mentioned due to the recent opening of the valve, water levels are being monitored.

6) Open Forum:

- a) Mr Brian Partridge who lives on the Barnt Green Road and has a share, pointed out that various houses along the Barnt Green Road had encroached beyond their original boundary and increased their gardens in particular his next door neighbour. It was pointed out that this strip of land was not owned by us and was in fact part of Muriels Marsh which had been owned by the Sandy family for over 100 years. Mr Partridge had been in touch with Mr Sandy current owner and negotiations are on going as to how to proceed with this problem. Mr Partridge stated that fences had been erected on this land. Paul Whitby offered to investigate. This will be discussed at a later meeting once all the information is to hand.
- b) Judy Hickman-Smith commented on the Skunk Cabbage that had started to grow around the lake as offshoots from the mass growing in the swamp. A couple of volunteers had removed some of these and would look into removing the rest.
- c) Two of the benches had been cleaned and painted and a further two to be done this spring. Fishing club had repaired one on the dam and the other would be looked at during the next work party.

As always it just leaves me to say a few thank yous.

As Sue has already said, a special thank you to all who contribute over and above the £12/annum subs - especially Ted Brookfield who has sent cheques this year towards maintenance. Ted has been coming to Cofton Lake since he was a boy and is keen that it should be preserved and enjoyed for years to come - thanks Ted.

Thanks to Simon Munn who looks after our website. Even though Simon has now moved away from Cofton he has agreed to continue hosting our website.

Thanks to Rob our Accountant for all his time and good work in filing our accounts.

I would point out that all these people work on a voluntary basis.

Thanks to the Fishing Club for all their hard work in maintaining the pathways and cutting back trees.

Thanks to the Directors and Committee Members for their continued support

And also many thanks to you all for attending today.

See you next year.

Signed..... Date.....

Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd