

Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd

Minutes of AGM held on Sunday 28th April 2024 at Cofton Hackett Village Hall

Present: Diane Carr – Chairman – Director
Paul Whitby – Treasurer – Director
Tim Walsh – Director and member of White Swan Piscatorials Fishing Club
Dave Townshend – Director and member of White Swan Piscatorials Fishing Club
Katie and Mark Bradley – Directors
Paul Whitehouse – Committee Member
Brian Partridge – Committee Member

11 members present

Apologies: Ann Blackburn – Committee Member and Rob McCulloch Accountant

The committee were introduced and minutes from last years AGM signed and approved.

As called for in our Memorandum and Articles of Association, all the directors and committee members to resign at the AGM and become re- elected. All are willing to stand again for a further term.

Paul Whitby gave an overall account of the finances to date but had been advised by the bank not to include this in the written Minutes of the AGM due to the increase in recent scams as the minutes are shown on our website for all to see.

£1753.70 has been spent during the year on grass cutting and materials for the boggy pathway.

There are still over 20 annual subscriptions outstanding.

Chairman Report – Diane Carr – A few of the houses backing onto the lake have changed hands and new owners have moved in. To them we say welcome.

I am pleased to say that the 2year boundary issue has now been resolved and an agreement made and the tribunal cancelled.

Since acquiring Muriel's Marsh, the Thursday work party have spent many hours clearing the rubbish which had been tipped over the fence onto our land. There were huge quantities of plastic, old carpets, toilets, old sinks, taps etc. It cost us £650 to be taken away. A couple of weeks ago we found yet again someone had dumped an old cat scratcher onto our land behind the houses in Ten Ashes. This is fly tipping. When walking around the lake if you see anyone throwing anything into the lake land, please let us know.

Some houses backing onto the lake/marsh do not own a share but still have open access to the area. I think you will agree that this is not fair on the people who have purchased shares. These houses will be sent a letter offering a share in the Company or alternatively we will block their gates and also point out as a non member they are not covered by our public liability insurance.

We have never experienced such a wet winter and as you will see when walking around the lake the pathways are in parts impossible to cross. The weekly Thursday team have been rained off on many

occasions and have been busy trying to make the pathways accessible. We have built bridges and laid slabs and scattered the area with chippings. Hopefully as the weather improves the pathways will clear.

As always, we are looking for volunteers to help. We know many of you work during the week so we are arranging a few Sunday morning sessions. Dates for your diary are May 26th and 2nd June to help wheelbarrow the chippings to the Marsh area and 16th June to help pull up the Himalayan Balsom. We meet at 10.30 and start at the car park.

I attended the annual Catchment Committee meeting at Bittel 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 and representatives from Barnt Green Waters. Barnt Green Waters are holding an open day on 11 May if anyone is interested in going. C&RT own our dam wall. I did raise the question of responsibility if anyone fell along the pathway across the dam and would it be possible for us to have some sort of handrail and who would be responsible for the cost. They are looking into it and promised to get back to me.

May I remind everyone all minutes are posted on our website.

I now hand you over to Dave Townshend for the Fishing Club report. Fishing has been good last year and the lake continues to be popular with our members. The Canadian pond weed was a problem last year and much of the lake was unfishable. We removed some from in front of fishing pegs and will do so again this year if the weed returns. We had a fish survey carried out earlier this year to establish what the fish stocks were in the lake. It showed that all the fish were in the deeper water at the dam end of the lake and that there were very few smaller fish. Our contractor did note that the water temperature in the lake was a couple of degrees lower than he would have expected, which may account for the distribution of the fish. The results were puzzling and we're still trying to interpret them

Open Forum:

Points were raised regarding the tipping of rubbish which hopefully will be solved once our letters have been delivered.

We thank all the people who contribute over and above the £12 per annum subs – especially Ted Brookfield who has sent cheques during the 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 to Simon Munn who looks after our website. Even though Simon has now moved away from the area he has agreed to continue hosting our website.

Thanks to Tim Langford Nick Sandy's solicitor for helping with the boundary issues.

Thanks to the fishing club for all their hard work during the year and thanks to the Directors and Committee members for their continued support – and many thanks to you all for attending today. See you next year.

Next meeting – to be arranged.