

Cofton Lake Conservation Ltd

Minutes of AGM held on 26th April 2026 at Cofton Hackett Village Hall

Present: Diane Carr – Chairman – Director
Paul Whitby – Treasurer – Director
Katie Bradley – Committee Member
Paul Whitehouse – Committee Member
Ann Blackburn – Committee Member
Martin Birrell – Committee Member
Tim Walsh – Director and member of White Swan Fishing Club
Adam Turbutt – Committee Member
Rob McCulloch – Accountant
Also 26 members present
Apologies: Dave Townshend Director and member of White Swan
Brian Partridge – Committee Member
Mark Bradley – Committee Member
Carol Barrett
Gavin Hughes

The committee were introduced and minutes from last year's AGM signed and approved.

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

Financial Report – Paul Whitby

Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen.

Our Bank Accounts – On advice from our bank the actual figures in bank accounts not to be included in the minutes of the AGM due to the increase in recent scams.

Our expenses for 2025 amounts to £4358.77 This is what we have paid for gravel, tree surgeons, insurance and general maintenance of the lake and marsh.

The interest earned on the deposit account for 2025 is £294.83.

The bank charges for 2025 amount to £85.95. The bank has increased their administration charges per month from £4.35 for each account to £13.35 per month for each account.

Lloyds Bank closed their Rubery branch last year and at the beginning of this year the bank stopped issuing the special cheque envelopes to the post office.

Lloyds Bank in Northfield advised me to take any cheques in person to that branch or post them – recorded delivery, so we have an added cost of £3.60 per envelope.

That is Cofton Lake Conservation financial statement for 2025.

Chairman's Report – Diane Carr

A few houses backing onto the lake have become empty and new owners moved in – to them we say welcome and also welcome to the new members who have bought a share having only recently moved to the area.

You may have noticed the work is now complete on the widening of the pathway across the dam wall and we thank the fishing club and the Thursday group who helped laying the gravel.

Our tree surgeon has been busy this year checking the trees and taking down fallen and dangerous trees damaged in the high winds. The Thursday group have planted many more wild flowers and shrubs and of course battled once again with the Himalayan Balsom. It would help when any of you are walking around the area if you could pull up any Balsom. Also, if you see anyone walking their dogs off lead - please let us know. The fishing club did put up signs re dogs on leads – someone has taken them down which is upsetting.

As you all now know we have yet again another boundary dispute going on. I find it odd that there are over 80 houses backing onto the lake in Ashmead/Reservoir and Cofton Lake Roads and there has not been one problem with boundaries and yet out of the 10 houses along the Barnt Green Road we have had 5 extend their gardens. Surely when CLCL acquired the Marsh and erected a boardwalk/ bridges etc – it made it easier for the people along Barnt Green Road to access the lake! They should be thanking us not making life difficult.

However, negotiations are still on going. The very same day we received notification from Land Registry we also received notification that planning application might be sought for 50 houses to be built on the fields adjoining the lake. Once again, we shall object.

It was reported that the drain at the bottom of Ashmead Rise is again polluted. This has been reported.

Can we please once again say the lake area is not a dumping ground. Anyone found dumping rubbish over their fence will have their share taken away.

Our Annual Newsletter goes out every December. This Newsletter has the new gate number on which is changed every March. For some reason we get many e mails bouncing back. If you change your e mail please let us know as I get phone calls in March saying people can't get through the gate because they don't have the new number.

We have given up on the Sunday work parties due to lack of people turning up. I would point out that the Thursday work party are all volunteers as are the Committee and Directors. We are therefore looking for volunteers to help with painting the boardwalk and benches. All materials will be supplied.

Thank you – I now hand you over to Tim Walsh from the Fishing Club for their report.

We were quite successful in scaring off the cormorants over the course of the winter and will be doing the same this coming winter. Security cameras have been installed and also security lights. The rotten timbers on the bridge have also been replaced.

More signs will be put up saying dogs should be on leads at all times.

Plans are in hand for improving the lake and banks:-

- 1) Improving the lake and banks by planting Lily pads, Iris, and reeds.
- 2) Clearing the dead wood and removing fallen and dangerous branches and trees.
- 3) Planting Honeysuckle and Clematis along the fence on the dam wall.
- 4) Bird boxes will be put up around the lake, some made from a fallen silver birch to promote wildlife.
- 5) Fish sanctuary's but only when the water level is dropped again (Which I'm sure will happen again).
- 6) Improving the lower pathway around the lake.
- 7) Five work party's this year:
May 10th
June 21st

July 19th
August 16th
October 18th

Open Forum:

Many questions were asked re the boundary dispute. As this is still ongoing it was pointed out that the committee would do all it could to ensure the marsh could still be accessed in safety.

As always, it just leaves me to say a few thank you's.

A special thank you to all who contribute over and above the £12 per annum subs. Thanks also to Simon Munn who looks after our website. Thanks to Rob our Accountant and thanks to the fishing club for all their hard work.

Finally, very special thanks to the Thursday group – Geoff and his wife Diane, Ann, Carol, Val, Paul Martin, Anthony and Linda. I don't think I need to list what they have done – you can all see for yourselves. They have given up their time week after week to ensure we can all walk around this beautiful area in safety – and with dry feet!

Finally, thanks to the Directors and Committee Members for their continued support and lastly – thanks to you all for attending today – hopefully see you next year.

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