

Westleton Common Advisory Group

Minutes of meeting held on Monday 22nd July 2024 at 7-30 pm in the foyer of Westleton Village Hall

Present; David Rous (DR), John Bebbington (JBe), Nick Shearme (NS), Joyce Burtenshaw (JBU), Amanda Freeman (AF), Ian Webber (IW), John French (JF), Barry Banks (BB).

1 – *Apologies.* Chris Freeman (CF), Julian Alexander (JA).

2 - *Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 26th March 2024.*

Agreed correct.

3 - *Matters arising not on this agenda.*

NS advised that UK Power Networks will be cutting back “high rise” vegetation under their powerlines. This is expected to be done in August so the nesting season will be over. NS will let us know if and when he is given dates for this work.

4 – *Community and Conservation Fund - grant application;*

This fund is managed by Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape. After discussion the group decided that it would be worth applying for a grant to support the clearance of the cliff in compartment 13. This will allow sand martins to nest again and expose the underlying geology as advised by GeoSuffolk. The cost of this project is estimated at about £1740. A grant of up to £700 could be available from this fund and the remaining cost can be met from existing monies. If this bid is successful there may be opportunities to apply for further grants through Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape.

JBe will draft the application review it with NS. When they agree on the bid they will quickly confirm with the rest of the group and with Westleton PC.

This work is consistent with the management plan.

5 – *Collins quote for clearance work.*

We have had a quotation for clearance work in compartments 13 and 9 which is consistent with the management plan. NS will arrange for them to do the work.

6 – *Woolnough quote for car park repair.*

Woolnough have quoted for the supply of granite chips to repair the car parking area between Mill Street and Bakers Lane. NS will discuss how to proceed with CF.

7 – *AOB – Suffolk & Essex C&H working parties Oct to Dec 2024.*

They will be asked to clear gorse on the banks in compartments 14 and 9. JBe will advise Neil Lister (email sent 23/07/2024).

DR advised that, as is the case with other similar areas, the common is becoming overpopulated with ragwort. People are encouraged to pull it up as they walk the common.

NS and DR will put up the fire hazard signs next Saturday (27 July).

8 – *Date of next meeting.*

To be arranged for October 2024 as we expect to hear about the grant application to Suffolk and Essex Coast and Heaths National Landscape by then.