

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE WILDLIFE RESERVE COMMITTEE Meeting held on Tuesday, 5th December 2017 in the Barling Magna Parish Hall, Little Wakering Road, Barling Magna, Essex, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. S. Bond (Vice-Chair), M. Clark, M. Cohen (ex officio), I. Knight (Chair).

In attendance: Cllr. A. Ashdown, Mr. P. Shaw (Volunteer) and I. King (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Cllrs R. Gardiner, M. Pearmain and M. Steptoe.

MINUTES

- 1. The Chair to declare the meeting open.**
 - a. Councillor Knight declared the meeting open at 7pm.
- 2. To receive apologies for absence.**
 - a. Apologies were received from Councillors Gardiner, Pearmain and Steptoe.
- 3. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.**
 - a. There were no declarations of interest beyond those already declared in the members' register.
- 4. To agree the Minutes of the Wildlife Reserve Committee held on 5th September 2017.**
 - a. Proposed by Councillor Cohen, seconded by Councillor Bond that the minutes of the meeting held 5th June 2017 be agreed. Carried.
- 5. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Committee (*maximum 15 minutes*).**
 - a. Mr Shaw observed that the current 'closure' of Mucking Hall Road had not resulted in any problems of access to the Reserve.
 - b. Following from the previous meeting's discussion on making dog owners more aware of, and responsible for, their dogs' behaviour in the Reserve, some appropriate signs had been found and would be displayed.
 - c. Mr Shaw enquired whether a local photographic society might have access to the Reserve on a clear night in the winter months to undertake some sky photography. Subject to sight of a risk management plan and waivers of liability signed by those attending, and advising the neighbours at Roper's Farm of the possibility, members agreed that this was in line

with the kind of seasonal events discussed at the September meeting. There was no risk of disturbing wildlife at that time of year. Councillor Clark suggested that the committee should do some further thinking about seasonal events at the Reserve, possibly at its February meeting.

6. Car park fencing

- a. The Committee noted with pleasure the repairs to the car park fencing and offered its heartfelt thanks to the volunteers for undertaking this task.

7. Equipment

- a. The clerk had previously circulated members with a schedule of proposed purchases kindly prepared by Mr Shaw, comprising:
 - (i) Hammerite paint, decking oil, undercoat and gloss paint with brushes at a maximum estimated cost of £120;
 - (ii) Half-round rails to protect the pond against damage by dogs, at an estimated maximum cost of £90.

It was proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Bond that this expenditure be recommended to full council for approval at its December meeting. Agreed unanimously.

- b. Enquiries would be made to see if anyone would donate 45-50 metres of wire fencing for the pond; otherwise existing wooden posts would be used. These would be planted alongside gorse bushes, to deter dogs.
- c. Mr Shaw had also identified some options for robust and recycled benches for possible purchase in 2018/19 and these would be considered as items for which specific fundraising or sponsorship proposals might be launched.
- d. Members of the committee thanked Mr Shaw for bringing these items forward.

8. Review of Substances Hazardous to Health

- a. The currency of the COSHH plan for the Reserve had been raised at the September meeting. The clerk had circulated an interim report for members to consider.
- b. Mr Shaw offered to work with the clerk to conduct the next review, to take place in January or February, using the COSHH Essentials application supplied by the Health & Safety Executive. A report would come to a future Committee meeting. This was agreed unanimously.

9. Survey of flora and fauna at the Wildlife Reserve

- a. At the Chair's suggestion, this matter was deferred to spring 2018.

10. Correspondence received since the last meeting

- a. It was noted that there had been no further contact regarding the requested translocation of common newts from Shoeburyness. It was agreed to await further contact from the ecologists.

- b. A local community-based church had requested access to the Reserve (car park, footpath and barn area) for a Nativity event on 23rd December. Subject to the clerk taking responsibility for supervision of the event and sight of both insurance cover and risk management plan from the church, this was agreed.

11. To note the date of the next committee meeting

- a. In the Council's calendar of meetings for the year, the date of the next Wildlife Reserve Committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, 27th February 2018.

12. At the Chair's discretion, to exchange information on matters relating to the Wildlife Reserve.

- a. It was proposed by Councillor Knight, seconded by Councillor Bond that the Council should arrange a volunteers' working party over the Easter Weekend 2018. This would be an opportunity to encourage new volunteers as well as tackle some significant pieces of work. It was agreed unanimously to recommend this to Council for its December meeting.
- b. Mr Shaw suggested that the Council should encourage members of the public wishing to plant trees or install benches in memoriam, to make a financial donation to the running of the Reserve.
- c. A member of the public had left an anonymous note angrily complaining that she was not allowed to rise her horse at the Reserve.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:55pm

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