

**CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnor Fit for the Future Steering Group**  
**on Thursday 4 April 2024 at 7.30pm**  
**in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.**

**Present.**

Alison Jenner, Chair, (CPC), Lucy Crittenden, Tony Harker, Kevan Martin, Jim Mower, Fiona Newton, Stuart Newton, Ray Stone and Tina Brock, Clerk

**01/24 Apologies for Absence.**

Catriona Bass (prior commitment). Apology approved.

**02/24 Declarations of Interests. None.**

**03/24 Variance of order of business. None.**

**04/24 Minutes of the Meeting of held on Wednesday 4 October 2023.**

Agreed and signed by the Chair.

**05/24 Matters Arising from these Minutes. None.**

**06/24 Public Participation. None.**

**07/24 Jubilee Memorial Copse.**

- i. Request to turn Common Land CL42 into a Memorial Copse.

The Estates Team, OCC have responded that 'As land owners we do not see any issues with the parish using the land however it must align with the general regulations around the use of Common Land'. [Carrying out works on common land](#) the government website states under 'Works you don't need consent for – plant trees and shrubs that do not form a continuous barrier'. The land is known as land adjacent to Abingdon Road and the A420 Cumnor. Fiona Newton, Alison Jenner and Clerk would make a site visit and report back to the group.

- ii. No response from VWHDC who suggested that a piece of common land near to the Cricket Ground may be a suitable site for a conservation area. **Action.** Clerk to keep chasing.

**08/24 Reports.**

- i. Walking group – literary walks. The walking maps to be uploaded to the website for feedback.

- ii. Website/Interactive map. Stuart to update the website and check whether the host fees are due for renewal.

- iii. Thames Valley Wildflower and Meadow Recovery Project. Kevan reported.

Leases on 2 important riverside meadows have been negotiated, Nyeotts 1 year lease with OCC at commercial rates and 2 meadows downstream 10 year lease with Smiths, gravel extractors. A lease for the Willow Copse sitting in the Nyeotts meadows which was planted 15 years ago is currently being negotiated. Nature Recovery joined Oxfordshire Hedgerow Heroes a partnership between Wild Oxfordshire and CPRE and planted ½ km of hedgerow. Future events and workshops are listed on the Nature Recovery website.

- iv. Cumnor Conservation Group. Jim reported;

Cumnor Hurst unit 2.

Natural England would be lending equipment to clear the gorse. The Ragwort needs to be cleared to preserve the acid grassland area and volunteers are needed to help with the clearance.

The grazing agreement has been sent to Gareth Morgan. The date that grazing can commence is in discussion as stock fencing needs to be repaired. The field up to the entrance to the Hurst is very muddy which may cause problems getting the Dexters to the Hurst.

No news on the purchasing of the Hurst from All Souls. Clerk to chase.

Cumnor Hurst unit 1.

Natural England carried out a survey and found that the bryophytes were declining. Tree growth needs to be addressed and the cost to carry this out is expensive. Natural England have suggested carrying out a controlled clearance. A lease between Simon Fineman, owner and Council is being drafted.

Community Woodland.

Volunteer assisted with a successful tree planting session.

- v. Village Pond. Jim reported.

Volunteers assisted Ben Grady with clearing the pond of weed.

- vi. Hill End. Lucy reported;

There has been a drop in visitors probably due to the recent heavy rain. A Dawn Chorus event would take place in Bean Wood part of Wytham Woods, which is not open to the public, on Saturday 4 May 2024 at 5am. Funding for a Pond Restoration project to restore the large barn ponds is being sourced.

vii. Any other reports. None.

**09/24 Date of next meeting.**

Wednesday 15 May 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Signed.....Date.....2024