

CUMNOR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnor Fit for the Future Steering Group
on Wednesday 4 October 2023 at 7.30pm
in Fogwell Road Pavilion, Fogwell Road, Dean Court.

Present.

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

21/23 Apologies for Absence.

Catriona Bass (prior commitment) and Kevan Martin (prior commitment). Apologies were received.

22/23 Declarations of Interests. None.

23/23 Variance of order of business. None.

24/23 Minutes of the Meeting of held on Wednesday 10 May 2023.

Agreed and signed by the Chair.

25/23 Matters Arising from these Minutes. None.

26/23 Public Participation. None.

27/23 Jubilee Memorial Copse.

No response from the Estates Team, OCC who are looking into the group's request to turn Common Land CL42 into a Memorial Copse.

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. Fiona reported that the land had been cleared and the fencing was coming down. **Action.** Fiona would try to find out who had carried out the work.

28/23 Reports.

- i. Walking group – literary walks. Tony was considering a parish boundary guided walk. The Group discussed using QR codes placed at points of interest.
- ii. Website/Interactive map. The website to be updated.
- iii. Thames Valley Wildflower and Meadow Recovery Project. Catriona and Kevan not in attendance.
- iv. Cumnor Conservation Group. Jim reported;

Cumnor Hurst unit 2.

The lease between Council and All Souls College was being looked into. The lease runs out in February 2025 and Council would request that the lease be extended to 99 years rather than 21 years.

A Management Plan to cover units 1 and 2 was being drafted for Natural England to approve. Separate Managements Plans would be drafted for the Community Woodland.

The Dexter cows have been removed as they kept escaping.

The Oak Tree survey found that there are 1,362 Oak Trees many very mature and in good condition the survey included the Dog Lodge.

The gorse needs to be cleared but the specialist machine is broken. In the short term volunteers have cleared the paths.

The Group have 16 members and 30 volunteers.

An Outreach Plan is being developed and Jim has been meeting residents of the Kimmeridge development.

A beetle survey carried out over the summer found that the Hurst was one of the top 3 sites for the variety of dung beetles found. This is believed to be because the Dexter cows are eating a natural diet.

Much of the Ragwort was left to flower which encouraged an extraordinary number of pollinators.

Community Woodland.

Mike Packer is managing Unit 1 and the Community Woodland. Cumnor Conservation Group volunteers helped to plant trees in the woodland.

- v. Village Pond.

Jim reported that the pond is very green at the moment, but this is not a bad thing. Residents tend to complain about the pond but do not wish to be involved with maintenance work.

- vi. Hill End. Lucy reported;

That the Ffennell Festival held on Saturday 10 June 2023, 11am – 4pm was a great success. There would be an Autumn Adventure day on Saturday 7 October 2023, 10am – 2pm. Hill End would be shut this half term as the swimming pool was being filled in.

- vii. Any other reports. The Cumnor Clean Up would take place in March 2024.

29/23 Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 10 January 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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