

## **PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL**

**A Meeting of the Nutbourne Common Recreation Ground Sub-Committee was held at the Sports Pavillion on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 at 7.00 pm.**

**Present:** Mrs C Barnett (Chairman)  
Mr J Denison  
Mrs A Lawson  
Mr F Riddle

### **3. APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. MINUTES**

Mr Riddle objected to the Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 as an important issue had been omitted. There was no mention of the size of the clearing in response to his email of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007. The Chairman altered the Minutes and Mr Riddle reminded the Committee that the Clerk had put nothing in the Minutes about the subject spoken of by Mrs Rose, the public speaker. Mrs Barnett informed Mr Riddle the meeting had been adjourned to allow Mrs Rose to speak and therefore nothing would be noted for the Minutes. Mr Riddle was advised that the Committee were only following the law. The Clerk told members that public speaking always refers to an agenda item and as there was no agenda, it was a matter of courtesy on the part of the Committee that Mrs Rose was allowed to speak.

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes should be altered to include Mr Riddle's comments and they were then received and signed.

### **6. Matters Arising**

Mr Denison stated he could not see how Mr Riddle could square his comments on the previous Minutes when they state he had wanted to see Rob Free have carte blanche on what happened to the Recreation Ground. Mrs Barnett said Rob Free could not be given a free hand without the Parish Council agreeing to what he had planned. Mr Riddle responded by saying the Council had asked Rob Free to establish a heathland and so he must therefore be given carte blanche. Mrs Barnett reiterated it must be in agreement with the Council and she saw it as a long-term project.

Mr Riddle then complained the recent tree surgery had left the Recreation Ground looking sterile. Mrs Lawson pointed out the tree surgeon was working under the remit of the Council and Mrs Barnett wanted to see what actually came up during the spring.

Mr Riddle then asked why a perfectly healthy birch tree had been cut down and asked to see the tree surgeons records on it. Mr Denison stated he had been with the tree surgeon and the tree in question was considered to be leaning dangerously towards the path. Mr Riddle then stated that in his view, there was no need to clear out so much of the Common as it was rich in wildlife. He mentioned he had spoken to Rob Free that day on the subject.

Mrs Barnett reminded him that he should not approach anyone as an individual as any decisions were to be made by the sub-Committee as a body, who would then instruct the Clerk to act accordingly. She then asked Mr Riddle why he had not mentioned he was Chairman of the Nutbourne Conservation and Historical Society, when members were asked to declare any interests. Mr Riddle apologised and stated he was unaware he had to do so.

Mrs Lawson reminded members that the Recreation Ground was for everyone in Pulborough and not just Nutbourne residents and therefore the sub-Committee must act for the whole Parish.

**7. PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7.20pm for public speaking.**

The Chairman invited Mrs Rose to speak for three minutes as she was speaking on behalf of others on agenda item 6, Public Right of Way – Footpath 2432.

**The meeting was reconvened at 7.23pm.**

**8. Controlling of Rabbits**

Mrs Barnett asked who was controlling the rabbits; how they were being controlled and where they were being controlled.

Members were informed the rabbits were being controlled on the land next to the Recreation Ground but not in the enclosure itself. Mrs Lawson stated she had seen evidence of rabbits eating the bluebell shoots within the Common and she recommended they were controlled. Mr Riddle argued that he had never seen rabbits eating bluebells and to control them would be a waste of taxpayers' money. Mrs Lawson reminded him that they had an obligation to control pests. After further discussion, it was agreed to monitor the situation before making a decision.

**9. Public Right of Way – Footpath 2432**

The members were informed that, as well as the owners of Carpe Diem and the Parish Council having evidence the footpath numbered 2432 belonged to each of them. It also appeared the 6<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Abergavenny had proof the land belonged to his estate. The Clerk was instructed to investigate and it was suggested WSCC were asked to arbitrate.

**10. Fencing**

Mr Riddle stated he did not like the idea of sheep fencing as it was ugly. What he felt was needed was something to keep out the travellers and he suggested putting stumps in the ground, the same as at Rackham Common. Mrs Barnett asked whether there were gaps either side of the newly erected gates and Mr Riddle advised members he had already filled the gaps with stumps. He informed the sub-Committee he was willing to put in more stumps around the perimeter free of charge. He was thanked for this suggestion but the sub-Committee did not agree to this form of enclosure.

Mrs Barnett was worried this would not keep out the large dogs owned by Carpe Diem. As there had been complaints, the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr and Mrs Osborne, requesting they fence off the east side of the Common to keep out their dogs.

It was agreed that a single wire and renovation of the existing posts would be sufficient for the rest of the Common, as the gorse would soon grow over the wire. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for the work.

Mrs Barnett informed members the next meetings would be on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 and 28<sup>th</sup> July 2007. Mr Riddle gave his apologies for the March meeting and asked if he could have someone take his place. The Clerk was instructed to ascertain whether this was possible.

The Meeting Closed at 7.45 p.m.

..... Chairman

..... Date