

Scot Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984

Chairman: Mr C Cotton

Secretary Mr R Cooke

Chriscott13558@btinternet.com

r.cooke33@btinternet.com

Annual General Meeting held at Brancaster Staithes Village Hall

5th December 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

287
COMMON
RIGHTS

Minutes

Held on
CL 65
CL 161
CL 162
CL 124

To take:
Wildfowl
Fish
Seaweed
Sampshire
Sand
Shingle
Shellfish
Sea Lavender
Estuaries
Heritage
Tangle
Bait
Reeds
Soil
Game

To graze;
Cattle
Horses
Ponies

1. Apologies: Peter Hambro, John Short, Alan Jarrett, Linda Beamish. Six common rightholders were present with six committee members.
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting – draft published on the SH&DCRA website: <https://www.shdcra.com/> were agreed and signed off. No questions.

3. Chairman's/Committee report: Available at the meeting and published on website.

Noted: The meetings with the RWNGC have been ongoing throughout the year and are confidential and delicate at this stage. AGM has been held back hoping that a result could be announced. The committee are hoping to give further updates in the New Year.

Relations with the NT have improved and SH&DCRA are looking forward to settled relations in the coming years.

4. Treasurer's Report: This was circulated to those present. The balance in the accounts is very low because of the amount of legal costs over the last few years. It is hoped that income will pick up over the next twelve months.
5. Reeves Reports:

- Dog bins on the common at Overy Staithes. SH&DCRA committee representatives have met with representatives of Burnham Overy Parish Council at the site of the dog bins. BOPC have been asked to remove the dog bins from the common. A response from the council is now awaited.
- An update on what seems to be the theft of Overy Marsh 77 acres and half of the island by Holkham Estate/Earl of Leicester aided and abetted by the Land Registry was given to the meeting. All efforts are being made to correct this including reporting the matter to the Norfolk police serious fraud team and further enquiries for information from the Land Registry.

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- Reported that Norfolk Superhero have refused requests from SH&DCRA for a donation towards maintaining the common despite having been given a free licence from the Association for many years. Secretary has been asked to find out the legal position from the Secretary of State, through the Planning Inspectorate.

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6. Election of Committee Members SH&DCRA: Three correctly completed nomination forms from the retiring committee members had been received. The Chairman declared that these three people continue to serve for the next three years: Peter Bickell, Stephen Bocking, Billy Scoles.
 - Alan Jarrett was co-opted again for the coming year.
7. A.O.B. There was a long discussion concerning the removal of names from the official register by Norfolk County Council which was raised by a common rightholder. This concerns where there were more than four people registered on a common right in the 1960's. The Association recognises all of those named in the register in 1968 as full rightholders. Unfortunately, NCC will only recognise a single right where multiple names are on the right numbered in the register. SH&DCRA committee have been to County Hall a number of times looking into this and other matters. Secretary will look into this again with NCC.
8. Date of next meeting: To be arranged in 2026.

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 Chriscotton13558@btinternet.com r.cooke33@btinternet.com

SH&DCRA Chairman and Committee Report 5th December 2025

The committee have continued to meet on a monthly basis in order to manage Association business. Protecting the commons from encroachment is an ongoing concern but all in all it has been a more positive year:

- The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club: SH&DCRA representatives are meeting with representatives of the RWNGC concerning compensation for tolerating loss of grazing over CL124. A survey was undertaken showing over 90% in favour of these discussions.
- The National Trust: Relations between the NT and SH&DCRA have improved somewhat this year. A new local manager – Peter Nicholson - has been put in place by the NT. The new more market rate mooring charges are now being fully implemented in Brancaster harbour and this will have an impact on improving the compensation paid to SH&DCRA for tolerating activities on the common.
- Burnham Overy Harbour Trust and Holkham Estate: the situation remains unchanged as both organisations have continued to ignore common rightholders and are carrying on with their unlawful activities on the common. SH&DCRA Committee are moving forward with their attempts to reach a lawful use of the common for all interested parties.
- National Trails: There has been much consultation with National Trails concerning the Brancaster boardwalk section and removal of cattle gates. The historic position put forward by the Committee regarding cattle gates was confirmed by the National Trails team and gates will be retained.
- Carbon capture and reed management: The committee have been in touch with the Broads Reed and Sedge Cutters Association and a survey has been undertaken. The committee also have the services of an expert in carbon capture legislation and grant provision looking at how best to maintain CL124.

The committee has received a generous donation during the year and committee members continue to try to maximise income, including investigating crowd funding for projects. Whilst the action to recover funds from Brancaster Parish Council had to be abandoned because of the prohibitive legal costs, it was heartening to see that promises of backing to the tune of a quarter of a million pounds were forthcoming.

It's important to remember that, whilst committee members give time and their costs of travel for free, there are other costs for such as legal advice, insurance and printing that need to be covered. Common rightholders in the past made donations to SH&DCRA at the AGM; it would help if this tradition could be resumed this year.

Cheques can be sent to the sec. at the above address or payments can be made direct to the Association bank account:

Scot Head and District Common Rightholders Association

Sort Code: 53 – 61 – 15 Account number: 66825393

Chairman: Mr C Cotton
Vice Chairman: Mr S W Bocking