

Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984

Acting Chairman: Mr C Cotton
Chriscotton13558@btinternet.com

Secretary Mr R Cooke
r.cooke33@btinternet.com

6.8.2022

287
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Hold on

£65
£161
£162
£124

To take:

Wildfowl
Fish
Seaweed
Samphire
Sand
Shingle
Shellfish
Sea Lavender
Eggs
Herbage
Tangle
Bait
Reeds
Soil
Game

To graze:

Cattle
Horses
Geese
Sheep

Minutes Annual General Meeting held at Burnham Overy Staithe Village Hall 24th September 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

1. Apologies: N. Bottom, T. Campbell-Gray, G. Parry. Acting Chairman C. Cotton will be late owing to urgent appointment. Vice chairman S. Bocking took the chair.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting on 17th May 2019 were taken as read.

A question of wording within item 4 of the minutes was raised by a CRH. There being no proposals to change the wording the minutes stand.

3. Chairman's report had been circulated with the agenda and other papers. Taken as read.

4. Report on the work of the committee since the last AGM had been prepared and circulated with the agenda and other papers.

- Brancaster Parish Council – car park matters: Explanation of the research that has been undertaken with regard to distribution of income from the Brancaster Beach Road Car Park was given. Legal advice and evidence received by the SH&DCRA Committee show that the 20% share of the car park received by the Brancaster Parish Council relates to an Agreement made in 1956 by the council on behalf of common rightholders. The receipts should have been held in trust by the parish council for the common rightholders. The matter is ongoing. (Full figures were given during AOB.)
- Royal West Norfolk Golf Club – car park matters: full details of the Agreement mentioned above was referred to and relates to compensation due to common rightholders for releasing a part of the grazing on the marsh common for use as a car park.
- National Trust – Brancaster Commons Committee – Brancaster fairways Committee: Recent discussions with the National Trust concerning a large number of changes proposed for the management of the common were outlined. The Association Committee had discussed these at great length and responses forwarded to the NT for follow-on discussion. Unfortunately, the NT local team have indicated that they will only have further discussions with SH&DCRA if the Association has a solicitor present. The matter is ongoing.

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- Burnham Overy Staithe marsh 77 acres and half of the island: The solicitor employed by the Association to look at this matter confirmed that Overy Marsh 77 acres and half of the island do not belong to Holkham Estate. It was noted that Burnham Overy Parish Council has refused to accept ownership.
There were a number of questions from the floor and further details were given. It was noted that Holkham Estate do not correspond with the Association.
- Burnham Overy Harbour Trust – Holkham Estate: It was reported that no further progress had been made towards forming the Burnham Overy Harbour Commons Trust. The Association Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary (plus one co-opted CRH) had met with representatives from Holkham Estate before the Covid lockdown and, whilst the meeting seemed to end on a positive note, nothing has been heard from Holkham Estate since. The Association has tried on many occasions to elicit a response from BOHT and Holkham Estate but with no replies.
A discussion took place concerning the situation and it was noted that the Association Special Meeting had decided that legal advice should be sought before agreeing to join the BOHCT. That advice outlined that Holkham Estate had no legal right to issue leases over most of the common in question. It was this and item 15 of the BOHCT Moorings Policy that have stopped matters moving forward. Item 15 gives away all of the prime moorings in the creek to individuals without any regard to the wishes of the CRH. The Association has offered ways forward but these have yet to be responded to by either the BOHT or Holkham Estate. It was noted the Association would not enter into any, seemingly unlawful, agreements on behalf of CRH.
- Appointment of Trustees - transfer of common right to the Association: The Association Committee has appointed four Trustees, as allowed for in the Constitution, in order to look after the assets that might accrue to SH&DCRA. B. Everitt, P. Bickell, T. Gathercole and M. Bucher. The Trustee terms of office will rotate, as with the Association Committee, on a three year cycle. At the moment steps are being taken to transfer to the Trustees a common right left by Deed of Will.
- Community Action Norfolk – Association insurance and legal advice: The Association Committee, in line with the Constitution demands, have taken out insurance for the Trustees and Committee. Subscription to the Gold Membership of Community Action Norfolk (CAN) has also been taken out as they have provided very useful information regarding how to set up the Trustees and offer legal advice at rates far below those of the solicitor employed up to the present.
- Natural England – unlawful wildfowling – BONWA – Brancaster Gun Club: There have been a good many contacts with Natural England and the police concerning unlawful wildfowling on the commons. Nothing has yet been resolved. Prior to the Covid lockdown, a local NE representative had been

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working closely with SH&DCRA but his successor has not yet made contact.

- Split rights: This issue is still with the Norfolk County Council Registration Authority legal team.

SH&DCRA

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5. Treasurer's Report: Copies were circulated to the meeting. It was noted that, where expenses were seen on the report, these were for consumables. No member of the Association Committee claims other expenses; all work done for the Association is voluntary. A deficit of £1,486.64 pence between January 2020 and September 2021 was noted.

6. Reeves Reports: None to give as all mentioned above.

7. Election of Committee Members SH&DCRA: The Secretary reported that three nominations had been received for the three vacancies on the Committee. These were from the retiring members and all three were therefore returned unopposed.

8. A.O.B.: A speaker from The Land Is Ours group that had encamped on the car park at Brancaster Beach over the August Bank Holiday weekend was invited to speak. He emphasised that it was not a SH&DCRA initiative but that his group were aware of the issues and had wished to show support for SH&DCRA. The Secretary of SH&DCRA had been contacted and, after consultation with the Committee, had reported back to TLIO that the event could not be in association with SH&DCRA. A number of CRH welcomed the support given and helped out from time to time at the event.

There were some heated discussions concerning the event and other matters on the agenda were resurrected for comment. The Association Secretary requested assistance from a past Chairman, critical of the present Association Committee, to help with negotiations. This request was refused. Another CRH also asked if the past Chairman would help and again the request was refused. There being no proposals in support of the heated comments from a minority of attendees, the meeting was called to a close.

9. Date of next meeting: Spring 2022

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Vice Chairman: Mr S W Boocking