

Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984

Chairman: Mr C Cotton
Chriscotton13558@btinternet.com

Secretary Mr R Cooke
r.cooke33@btinternet.com

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall 17th May 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

SH&DCRA

287
*COMMON
RIGHTS*

Held on

*CL 65
CL 161
CL 162
CL 124*

To take:

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

To graze;

*Cattle
Horses
Ponies*

1. Apologies. None.
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 5th May 2023 had been circulated with the agenda and were agreed as a true record having been proposed and seconded.
3. Chairman and Committee/Reeves Report.

SH&DCRA Chairman and Committee Report 17th May 2024

The committee have continued to meet on a monthly basis in order to manage Association business. Protecting our common land and common rights from continuing encroachments has been an ongoing cause for the committee. Here are the main issues facing common rightholders at this time:

- **Brancaster Beach Road Car Park:** The legal action against Brancaster Parish Council continues. Owing to two postponements by the Courts Service of the court hearing, there will be no written report here. However, there will be a verbal report at the AGM.
- **The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club:** It has been agreed that a meeting between SH&DCRA and the RWNGC will take place after the legal action mentioned above has concluded. This meeting will include the "unlawful" encroachment on the common for a club overflow car park; a matter that is also on the agenda for SH&DCRA meetings with Natural England.
- **The National Trust:** Relations between the NT and SH&DCRA seemed to have reached an all-time low this year when the NT, through the Brancaster Commons Committee, refused to honour long standing agreements concerning payments to SH&DCRA for tolerating NT/BCC activities on the common. Legal advice confirming that past agreements are legally binding contracts was gained by the SH&DCRA Committee. Payments have now been received from the NT. Poor management of the common by the NT has been the cause of some rather heated BCC meetings. The present position is that the BCC meeting in March this year proved to be quite positive and SH&DCRA continue to seek partnership with the NT, and others, for the good management of the common land.

The Committee have representatives overseeing the NT proposals for a waste/services pipeline from the Beach Road toilet area to the mains services. Opinions of the CL124 CRH will be sought at the AGM.

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Vice Chairman: Mr S W Boocking

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- 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. Large press and TV coverage of the situation was gained by the SH&DCRA Committee during the year. Unfortunately, neither BOHT or Holkham Estate have responded positively to requests from SH&DCRA to continue with negotiations started some years ago.

- 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. Whilst private individuals and organisations continue to encroach upon the commons and interfere with common rights, it is a continuing task for SH&DCRA to be ever vigilant in protecting the commons and common rights.

The report was accepted having been proposed and seconded. Discussion was put to AOB below.

4. Treasurer's Report.

There was a discussion concerning the nature of presentation of the accounts and it was agreed that annual accounts are preferable to the multi-years approach. The report was accepted having been proposed and seconded.

5. Reeves Reports. All covered in the report above.

6. Election of Committee Members SH&DCRA.

There were three committee members standing down in line with the Constitution. There were three nominations so no election was required. Newly re-appointed committee members are Tom Gathercole, Mark Cooke and Rod Cooke who will serve for the next three years.

7. A.O.B.

- The sad passing of Brian Everitt was raised and it was felt that his enormous contribution to SH&DCRA should be included in the AGM minutes. (The SH&DC Committee had made a gift to Brian on his retirement and were represented at his funeral.)
- It was noted that there are problems with the National Trail interfering with the grazing rights on the common; particularly cattle safety. Chris (and committee) will have a meeting with Ben Grapes the National Trails

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organiser and raise the issues that were listed and given to the committee.

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- It was noted that the committee have been in consultation with the National Trails people and have secured the situation regarding gates to protect grazing rights. Also noted that the best grazing area on CL124 is that used by the RWNGC and the NT for which not a penny in compensation is paid to CRH. Trying to correct this situation is where the spending on legal issues has been draining SH&DCRA resources.
- There was a suggestion, welcomed by all it seemed, that those who wished to graze the common should get together. The committee were in support of this idea.
- There was a discussion about the plans of the National Trust to put in a pipeline from the Beach Road toilet facilities to the mains sewers. BT are also wanting to use the excavation for their own cables. It was noted that SH&DCRA have secured two places on the group overseeing the project. The feeling of the meeting towards the project was very negative.
- Further attempts by Holkham Estate to register common land at Overy Staithe, CL65, were reported and the Land Registry map made available. The committee are registering a complaint with the Land Registry.
- A question was raised about the "trot" line at Brancaster Staithe. As this is village green, SH&DCRA have no control. However, it was noted that the boat park is common land leased to the Sailing Club by the NT and that CRH can use it for free.
- A question was raised from the floor concerning an anonymous letter sent to the committee. The Chairman responded to say that anonymous letters are, as in all organisations, ignored. The committee that has been in place for a number of years has an open policy and will take into account the views of all common rightholders. The present committee is also keen to coopt common rightholders on to the committee. Therefore there is no reason for any common rightholder to feel the need to write anonymously; just make contact through the secretary and join the committee in helping to protect the commons and common rights.

8. Date of next meeting: Spring 2025

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Vice Chairman: Mr S W Bocking