

HOLT TOWN COUNCIL

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MEETING OF THE SPOUT HILLS COMMITTEE on Monday 26th September 2016
at 4.00 p.m, Holt Community Centre

Present: Cllr J Allison (Chair), Cllr D Baker(DB), Fiona Jolliffe(FJ), Cllr C Hipperson(CH), Cllr P High(PH), Tony Leech(TR) and George Rudd(GR).
Elaine Oliver Town Clerk

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

On a **PROPOSAL** by Tony Leech, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hipperson, Cllr Allison was duly elected.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

On a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr Hipperson, **SECONDED** by Fiona Jolliffe, Tony Leech was duly elected.

3. APOLOGIES

Cllr Hill

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Hipperson, **SECONDED** by Cllr High that Cllr Payne be invited to join the committee in place of Cllr Hill.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Fiona Jolliffe declared membership of NWT, CPRE and River Glaven Conservation Trust.

Tony Leech declared membership of NWT, CPRE and River Glaven Conservation Trust group.

Cllrs Hipperson and High are members of Holt Lowes committee, which is affiliated to NWT.

5. AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th APRIL 2016

On a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr High the Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 19th April were **AGREED** with the following amendments

1. *Declarations of interest for Fiona Jolliffe should read*

NWT and River Glaven conservation group

Bullet point on page 2 should read Valley mire.

Tony Leech asked that the following amendments be made for clarification.

2. *TL did not put Spout Hills under NWT, the classification of this area becoming a CWS was originally actioned by Sarah Price. It has been classed as a County Wildlife Site (CWS) no. 206 rather than NWT. This is entirely separate from becoming a local nature reserve (LNR) and he again confirmed that no outside bodies can have influence on the management of the Spouts Hills.*

6. CLOSE THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation

No public present

7. PROGRAMME OF WORKS (If applicable)

The following points were agreed

JA reported that permission had been sought for someone to metal detect on the Spout Hills. After much discussion and on a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr Hipperson, **SECONDED** by Cllr Rudd that permission should not be given to metal detect, a vote was taken with 3 against and 3 abstaining, so motion was duly passed.

Programme of works

- It was thought it was important to have a programme of works for the new maintenance man to look at. It was noted that the maintenance personnel duties cover all the parish land.
- It was felt that with this help the volunteers would be able to move onto various other areas.
- The Map supplied by TL with areas marked was agreed.
- The red area will be mowed at appropriate times.
- The green areas are conservation areas.
- Blue lines mark the main paths that should be kept mown.
- It was recommended that the flowers at the entrance flowers have to come up before they can be cut and to be wary of not cutting too early.
- Willow herb and Alexander is plentiful on the slope to the right.
- Ride on mowers will be used for paths.
- The position will evolve, the plan is indicative
- Brambles will need spraying

TL reported he is hopeful of obtaining a side bar mower. River Glaven Conservation Trust has agreed to apply for a grant for this.

There was general agreement that this could be kept at Spouts and used whenever, it would also be available to land owners for use at other places. It would need to be stored in the container.

This won't happen until next year.

GR reported it is possible for the DR to cut the Valley Mire but it will knock it down.

TL was happy for the valley mire to be cut with the machinery available at the moment. The area agreed to be cut was from the pond to stream

If cut TL will rake it up.

GR felt it should be raked as soon as it is cut as when it is wet it is harder to do.

TL rather it was cut and left, than not cut at all because volunteers may not be available at the time.

The rest will not be cut, TL felt it should be left a year then cut with side bar mower, which we may be able to get next year.

JA reported that some of the Big Society committee came and looked at the pond and where the grant money had been spent.

Overall they were very impressed and thought it was lovely area.

DB reported that an Environmental quality award for Spout Hills, and other areas, had been presented by the Anglia in Bloom.

GR asked about cutting the broom at the RH side of the pond. JA had thinned this out a couple of years ago.

It was agreed this could be done by cutting out the big vegetation and leaving the young growth. This would however need to be done during winter and not after the end of March.

TL referring to the willow herb and water cress in the stream, reported it is hard to work. Physical removal in winter is no problem.

GR thought a chrome would do this job well.

TL felt mechanical clearance would be more disruptive, but a strimmer might help.

TL asked if some of the bramble breaks could be attacked, still round the edges by the railway line.

BP had a go he is cutting but the root is still there.

The new growth needs to be sprayed next Spring but spraying certificates would be needed.

CH asked if the spray is securely stored as farmers have been on the wrong side of the law. It was confirmed it is securely locked away

8. CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No further correspondence had been received.

Further comments were made as follows:-

Cllr High requested that Spouts Hills be put on the Town Council agenda so that members can debate and ask questions.

Cllr Allison agreed to put forward a report and take questions at the next TC meeting.

FJ asked about the harebells which had been fenced off , this had been passed onto the contractors.

JA reported that the posts placed in this area had been vandalised and thrown into the bushes.

GR reported there are still a few harebells.

FJ reported that the corner where the island of irises are has been mown and it looks a lot better.

She commented the access from the lay-by is gloomy and a bit unloved and maybe over the winter time some work could be done here.

9. CONSIDER DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged nearer March. Dates to be circulated

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.00p.m.

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Chairman

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Date