

Hemyock Parish Council
Commons Management Group
held at Longmead at 7.30pm on 21st November 2013

Subject	Action
<p>1. <u>Present</u> Mr S Clist (Chair), Mr I McCulloch, Mr S Major (Vice Chair), Mr J Edwards, Mr L Povah, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk), Edric Hopkinson (Devon Wildlife Trust – DWT) and 1 member of the public <u>Apologies</u> Mrs Linda Bennett (AONB)</p>	
<p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/dispensations</u> None declared.</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u> PROPOSAL: The Commons Management Group minutes of the 24th October are approved. PROPOSED: Mr McCulloch SECONDED: Mr Major DECISION: passed (all in favour) (2 abstentions LP & JE)</p>	
<p>4. <u>Matters arising from previous minutes not on current agenda</u> 4.1 Natural England – Richard Thomas from Natural England will attend a course on Common Land in December and will update the Clerk with any relevant information. The Clerk was given the contact information of a shooting club in Dorset which operates on Common Land/Open Access Land. It was agreed the Clerk will approach the club to see if they will share information/experiences.</p>	Clerk
<p>5. <u>Shuttleton Common</u> The recommendation reports from George Greenshields and DWT were discussed. Ed Hopkinson explained that if left unchecked the bracken will slowly smother the area and it will eventually become woodland. He suggested the best option would be to graze the land but that this would be problematic given water and fencing issues. The group will follow the recommendations and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Attend a site visit one Saturday afternoon in January with Ed Hopkinson to plan the works. b) Mark out an area of birch to be cleared - perhaps using volunteer resource from the Scouts. Chair will approach Mr Andy Batton, Scout Leader. c) Attempt a small area of swaling, under the direction/supervision of Ed Hopkinson. d) Borrow a crushing roller from DWT around May time (when fronds are fully open) and attempt to roll the bracken. Mr David Allen kindly offered his services and tractor for this task. e) Ed Hopkinson & Lynne Kenderdine will continue to monitor site and report progress. f) Ask the finance committee to budget £1,000.00 for works on Common Land next year (for possible strimming, benches, bird boxes and topping). 	All/EH SC All/EH DA EH/LK
<p>6. <u>Hemyock Common</u> The group wished to record its thanks to Mr David Allen for his continued work at Hemyock Common following the advice given by the Beef & Butterflies project.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Items raised by Chairman</u> None.</p>	
<p>8. <u>Items raised by Councillors</u> Mr David Allen was thanked for offering his tractor and services for crushing the bracken next year at Shuttleton Common. Ed Hopkinson was thanked for all of his advice and encouragement with the management of the Commons.</p>	
<p>9. <u>Public Participation</u> None</p>	

<p>10. <u>Summary of Recommendations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR mentioning achievements to date • £1,000.00 to be requested for project work next year • Site visit planned for a Saturday in January • Scouts to be contacted about possible volunteering project for birch clearance • Action plan to be produced after site visit to include swaling, birch clearance and crushing topper 	<p>Clerk All SC</p>
<p>11. <u>Next Meeting</u> will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 23rd January 2014 at Longmead</p>	

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....*Date*.....