

Hemyock Parish Council
Commons Management Group Meeting
held at Longmead at 7.30pm on 22nd January 2015

| Subject | Action |
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| <p>1. <u>Present</u> Mr S Clist (Chair), Mrs Stallard, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk) Linda Bennett (AONB) and 3 members of the public (Mr Moon, Mrs Moon and Mr Venn) <u>Apologies</u> Mr S Major, Mr J Edwards, Mr L Povah, Mr I McCulloch</p> | |
| <p>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/Dispensations</u> None declared.</p> | |
| <p>3. <u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u> To be carried forward until next meeting. Linda Bennett asked that it was clarified that the AONB has an existing relationship with the Parish Council which will continue and the liaison with the CMG was in addition to this relationship.</p> | |
| <p>4. <u>Matters arising</u> The Clerk confirmed that Andrew Tucker will top the commons with his mulching topper this year, if required. The Clerk has contacted Devon Biodiversity Records Centre ref site surveys for this year and is awaiting a response. Linda Bennett suggested the use of the Blackdown Hills Natural Futures trainees to survey the sites.</p> | |
| <p>5. <u>Hemyock Common</u> The Clerk has informed Natural England of the shoot dates for this year and they have issued posters notifying the closures. Posters will be given to Mr Allen from the Gun Club for erection.</p> | Clerk |
| <p>6. <u>Shuttleton Common</u> The Clerk has spoken to Ed Hopkinson, Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT) about scrub clearance at both commons. He has offered his services on Sunday 22nd February 10am-4pm. He may be able to provide some volunteers from DWT during the week to use chainsaws etc. Clerk to arrange.</p> | Clerk |
| <p>7. <u>AONB</u> Linda Bennett updated the group on the Blackdown Hills Natural Futures Project. The AONB has received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a three year project. See attached notes. The theme is Discover it! - Share it! - Do it! Linda suggested that as part of this project ecology graduates would be looking for sites to survey and both commons could be used for this purpose.</p> | |
| <p>8. <u>Hemyock Community Orchard and Environmental Area</u> Mr Clist has been researching the possibility of a community orchard. He has previously visited Bridport's scheme and has spoken to numerous other groups. The council has made contact with one local landowner about the possibility of renting some land on the edge of the village and Mr Clist and the Clerk have approached another local landowner who may be interested in selling some land for a community based project. At the moment this is still in its infancy and more research and funding opportunities need to be explored.</p> | |
| <p>9. <u>Items raised by Chairman</u> Nothing to report</p> | |
| <p>10. <u>Items raised by Councillors/Clerk</u> Nothing to report</p> | |
| <p>11. <u>Public Participation</u> 11.1 The Clerk read out a letter from Mr & Mrs Venn raising many matters ref shooting at Hemyock Common. The Clerk will forward the letter and attachments to all councillors. 11.2 Mr Moon asked who were the neighbours, referred to in the above letter, that were alleged to be unhappy with the gun club shooting on the common, as he believed this to be untrue. 11.3 It was reported that firewood has been cut and taken from Shuttleton Common.</p> | Clerk |

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| 11.4 Mr Moon reported that he had not seen a skylark since Shuttleton Common was burned. He also commented that now the area had been cleared, more people were using the common to walk their dogs, which in turn has had a detrimental effect on wildlife. | |
| 11.5 Mr Moon also reported that when walking through Hemyock Common during the previous weekend, the rough shoot members were filmed and photographed by Mr Venn and this matter was reported to the police. Mr Venn denied that he had taken any pictures. | |
| 12. <u>Summary of Recommendations/Information</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New posters for this year's shoot to be erected • Volunteering day at Shuttleton Common on Sunday 22nd February 10am - 4pm • Community Orchard – update • Letter from Mr & Mrs Venn | |
| 13. <u>Next Meeting</u> will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 19 th February 2015 at Longmead. | |

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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