

**Hemyock Parish Council**  
**Commons Management Group**  
**held at Longmead at 7.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

Subject	Action
<p><b>1. <u>Present</u></b>            Mr S Clist (Chair), Mr J Edwards, Mr S Major (Vice-Chair), Mr McCulloch, Mrs D Evans (Parish Clerk), and 3 members of the public  <b><u>Apologies</u></b> Mr L Povah</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Declarations of Interest/dispensations</u></b>            None declared.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u></b>  <b>PROPOSAL:</b> The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> June are approved.  <b>PROPOSED:</b> Mr Major  <b>SECONDED:</b> Mr McCulloch  <b>DECISION:</b> passed</p>	
<p><b>4. <u>Matters arising from previous minutes not on current agenda</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Devon Wildlife Trust – Lynne Kenderline and Edric Hopkinson will visit Shuttleton &amp; Hemyock Commons on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August.</p> <p>4.2 Provision of dog bins and signs – Clerk confirmed there was not a problem with dog fouling on Hemyock Common when she visited last week. After discussion, it became apparent that this was as a result of regular clean-up action by Mr Allen from the Gun Club. Mr Allen was thanked for his efforts.</p> <p>4.3 Lease agreements - Clerk to carry forward.</p> <p>4.4 Lickham Common Report – Clerk will chase this again. Clerk to invite Edric Hopkinson to a future meeting to update the group on the management of Lickham Common.</p> <p>4.5 Insurance – The Culm Vale Gun Club has provided the Clerk with a copy of its insurance details.</p> <p>4.6 Dogs on Leads – The Clerk will circulate the recommended signage from Natural England. Mr Major will produce some laminated signs to use. It was agreed they would be displayed out of reach, to prevent them from being removed. Mr Allen will also display one inside the porta-cabin. Signs will be displayed at both Hemyock and Shuttleton Commons.</p>	<p>Clerk            Clerk              Clerk            SM</p>
<p><b>5. <u>Terms &amp; Conditions</u></b></p> <p>5.1 Contamination/Pollution – Mr Major is still waiting for an estimate of costs for the testing of Hemyock Common for contamination/pollution issues. Some alternative ideas were suggested:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr R Allard, Beechlands Farm, uses water drawn from Hemyock Common. It may be possible, if Mr Allard agrees, to get his water tested for any contamination.</li> <li>• MDDC may be able to arrange for the soil to be tested, clerk to contact MDDC.</li> </ul>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p><b>6. <u>Shuttleton Common</u></b>            The clear up was successful and was well supported by the rough shoot syndicate. Thanks to Mr Allen for his support and Mr &amp; Mrs Moon for their support, hospitality and use of quad bike and trailer. MDDC removed the rubbish collected and the asbestos will be taken to Ashley Tip at Tiverton by Mr Clist.</p>	<p>SC</p>
<p><b>7. <u>George Greenshields's Visit</u></b>            George Greenshields visited both Hemyock and Shuttleton Commons on 18<sup>th</sup> July. He will send his report of recommendations week commencing 29<sup>th</sup> July. In the meantime the clerk will contact Andrew Tucker, contractor, to arrange a visit reference topping Shuttleton Common. It was agreed</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

that the Clerk would liaise with Mr Moon who has useful local knowledge of the site.	Clerk
<p><b>8. <u>Linda Bennett, AONB</u></b>  Linda Bennett informed the group of the work she is involved in as a member of the management committee of Stockland Turbaries. She offered the support of the AONB and suggested some funding may be available through a grant the AONB had applied for from the Lottery Fund. Alternatively, funding might be sought via Sarah Machin from Natural England through some agri-environmental schemes which will be launched in 2015. Linda informed the group one of the key learning points from the work with Stockland was the importance of communication and engaging with the community. Mr Clist thanked Linda Bennett for her advice and for volunteering to help the group.</p>	
<p><b>9. <u>Items raised by Chairman</u></b>  9.1 Communication is vital. Clerk will ensure a regular update is included in the Council's Pump article on the work of the Commons Management Group.  9.2 The Commons Management Group will seek funding where appropriate.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>10. <u>Items raised by Councillors &amp; Others</u></b>  10.1 Mr McCulloch clarified that any recommendations involving a cost incurred by the Commons Management Group would need to be agreed by full council which in turn would probably refer to the Finance Committee.  10.2 Mr McCulloch enquired whether the bracken could be controlled at Shuttleton by regular rolling.  10.3 Mr Allen confirmed he would be happy to top the areas recommended by George Greenshields with guidance from Mr Moon.  10.4 Mr Major asked that the AONB be thanked for their support. He also requested that future PR should note the great support received for the Shuttleton Common tidy-up evening.  10.5 Mr Major asked that the Clerk keep a record of the number of hours people have worked on the project as this may help with possible future funding opportunities.  10.6 Mr Major is concerned about the number of complaints that have been made by one individual to various agencies (Environment Agency, Environmental Health, Planning Department) about the Clay Pigeon Shooting on Hemyock Common. It would appear to be a vendetta against the Gun Club and has little to do with environmental issues. The Gun Club is spending a lot of time and money dealing with this vexatious behaviour.</p>	Clerk
<p><b>11. <u>Public Participation</u></b>  11.1 When did Hemyock Turbary become Hemyock Common?  <i>Clerk will investigate.</i>  11.2 Do Common Land rights lapse on the death of the rights holder or can they be transferred?  <i>Clerk will investigate.</i></p>	
<p><b>12. <u>Summary of Recommendations</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive George Greenshields report, discuss and look at financial implications of recommendations</li> <li>• Ask Edric Hopkinson for regular updates on Lickham/Ashculm projects.</li> <li>• Include regular piece in Pump on Commons Management Group</li> </ul>	
<p><b>13. <u>Next Meeting</u> will be Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7.30pm Longmead</b></p>	

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

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