

Minutes of a meeting of the **TYE COMMONS COMMITTEE** held on **Tuesday 3rd February 2009** in Telscombe Civic Centre at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Mr J Page (**Chairman**)
Mr T Armour, R Maskell

Mr P Seed, Mrs E Bavestock
Ms S Bavestock, Mr R McKellar
Chief Insp N Carron, Ms C Evans
Mrs J Rowland

APOLOGIES

Mr B Milton Mrs J Rowlands

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 pm to take questions from members of the public.

There being no questions the meeting was re-convened at 7.32 pm.

18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Armour declared a personal interest as a Commoner.

19. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2008**

The minutes of the above meeting were approved by the Committee and signed as correct by the Chairman.

20. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

21. **VERBAL UPDATE ON PROGRESS RE TYE MANAGEMENT REPORT BY MR BOB MILTON**

As a result of heavy snow Mr Milton was unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman advised that the report was still an early draft and required more input prior to it being circulated. It was hoped to circulate the report with the agenda for the next meeting to be held on 6th March.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the Town Council's Solicitors were in correspondence with the grazier in respect of possible breaches of the agreement for grazing the Tye. Concern was expressed about stock escaping onto the highway, cattle being fed on the Tye and the making of hay. The poor maintenance of the fencing was also raised as a reason for stock escaping. The issue of cattle being present during the ground bird nesting season was also considered a possible breach of the agreement.

22. **CONSIDER REPORT RE ESA SCHEME**

The meeting considered the implications of the management prescriptions circulated with the agenda for obtaining ESA payments on the land. The meeting discussed the level of management required as specified by Natural England. The meeting considered the levels of subsidy available in respect of the costs of implementing the Natural England management plan requirements, these included costs of fencing and scrub clearance. Concerns were expressed about the impact on wildlife in respect of scrub clearance. The value of the chalk downland environment and the need to preserve it was also recognised. The Chairman outlined the amount the Council had spent on the Tye in recent years and raised the possibility of transferring ownership of the Tye to an organisation with the expertise and resources to manage it – such as English Heritage. The meeting recognised the importance of the Tye as common land and public open space and that it had been purchased by the Town Council to preserve it. The meeting noted that as it was registered common land with commoners grazing rights, it could not be developed regardless of ownership. It was **agreed** that options for alternative ownership would be worth investigation.

23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Chief Inspector Carron advised the meeting that the Police had powers under the Road Traffic Act for dealing with vehicles being driven in an anti social manner on the Tye. Potential penalties included confiscation of vehicles, however, initial action was likely to be a warning.

A question was raised in respect of disabled access from the Saltdean side of the Tye. The Clerk agreed to arrange a site meeting to see what could be done to improve access.

The Chairman advised that a request had been received from the County Council to undertake some exploratory intrusive analysis work on the bunding. A meeting had been arranged with the County Council to establish details of the exact nature and purpose of the work. The Chairman stated that no exploratory work would be authorised without full details and Council approval.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Signed
CHAIRMAN - Cllr J Page

NB The next meeting of the Committee will be held on **6th March 2009 at 6.30 pm**