

Scolt Head and District Common Rightholders' Association

Founded 1984

Acting Chairman: Mr C Cotton
Chriscotton13558@btinternet.com

Secretary Mr R Cooke
r.cooke33@btinternet.com

SH&DCRA

287
*COMMON
RIGHTS*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Brancaster Staithe Village Hall 5th May 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

Held on

*CL 65
CL 161
CL 162
CL 124*

To take:

*Wildfowl
Fish
Seaweed
Samphire
Sand
Shingle
Shellfish
Sea Lavender
Estovers
Herbage
Fangle
Bait
Reeds
Soil
Game*

To graze;

*Cattle
Horses
Ponies*

1. Apologies. Billy Scoles from the committee and seven common rightholders.
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting on 24th September 2021 had been circulated with the agenda. (Note: The AGM was pushed into 2023 to meet with normal AGM timings.)
3. Chairman and Committee/Reeves Report.

SH&DCRA Chairman and Committee Report 5th May 2023

Whilst Covid has restricted full open general meetings of the Association, the committee have been meeting pretty much monthly in order to manage affairs. It has to be said that our common land and common rights remain subject to heavy encroachment from private individuals and organisations who are very wealthy. The main points are mentioned here:

- Brancaster Beach Road Car Park: After well over two years of being ignored by Brancaster Parish Council while trying to reach a settlement regarding the honouring of long standing agreements, the Association Committee decided to begin legal proceedings against Brancaster Parish Council. These proceedings are ongoing.
- The Royal West Norfolk Golf Club were informed that Brancaster Parish Council does not act for common rightholders and that all car park proceeds should be handled by the Trustees to SH&DCRA who would be responsible for meeting the individual CL124 common rightholder claims. It is estimated that each CL124 common right with grazing on it should receive around £1,500 based on last year's car park receipts.
- The "unlawful" encroachment on the common for a club overflow car park by the Royal West Norfolk Golf Club is still on the committee agenda.
- The National Trust approached the Association Committee in 2021 asking for the common rightholders to accept a new agreement to replace those terms contained in the Brancaster Commons Committee and Brancaster Fairways Committee. The terms offered by the NT were draconian to say the least, undermining the role of Common rightholders and severely reducing the income from the licences. The Association Committee spent many hours trying to reach an agreement with the NT but, as the NT would not meet with the lawful requirements of common rightholders, negotiations have now closed.

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Vice Chairman: Mr S W Bocking

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- Burnham Overy Harbour Trust and Holkham Estate have continued to ignore common rightholders and are carrying on with their unlawful activities on the common. SH&DCRA Committee are moving forward with their attempts to reach a lawful use of the common for all interested parties. Legal proceedings – Tribunal - are underway to gain access to information that BOHT and the Charity Commission are withholding from the Association/public.

- Unlawful wildfowling continues to be an issue. The Association committee have been in touch with both gun clubs, Brancaster and BONWA, concerning the matter of issuing “Day Tickets” and allowing non-common rightholders to be club members. This practice undermines Association efforts to stop the exploitation of the commons by others. It seems that both clubs are considering Barristers advice at the moment. SH&DCRA committee hope for a meeting with the clubs when they are ready.

- Moorings at Overy are the subject of the above investigations being carried out by the Association committee. In the meantime BOHT are managing the moorings without any reference to common rightholders. Legal proceedings might have to follow the Tribunal Hearing if BOHT and Holkham continue to ignore common rightholders. Moorings at Brancaster have been the focal point of many discussions between the Association committee. The Association has ensured that the mooring fees at Brancaster are now coming into line with market value and that the issuing of moorings will be more controlled.

Whilst private individuals and organisations continue to encroach upon the commons and interfere with common rights, it is a continuing task for SH&DCRA to be ever vigilant in protecting the commons and common rights.

The report was accepted having been proposed and seconded.

Questions were put concerning the lack of communication with some of the organisations that SH&DCRA should work in partnership with. It was explained that SH&DCRA Committee remain committed to fully cooperating with all interested parties concerning the commons and common rights, but will not operate outside of the law. Many of the issues have been outstanding for years/decades and, having been identified, were now being addressed by the SH&DCRA Committee without fear or favour.

4. Treasurer's Report.

The report gave figures for income and expenditure from 2020 until 2023. The Association has had a deficit of £2,259 for those years.

After a reminder from the floor, the report was formally accepted with one abstention made in good spirit.

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There was a discussion concerning the nature of presentation of the accounts and a feeling that the column/spreadsheet method was more acceptable.

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5. Reeves Reports. All covered in the report above.

6. Election of Committee Members SH&DCRA.

There were three committee members standing down in line with the Constitution with one not seeking re-election. There were three nominations so no election was required. Newly appointed committee members are Michael Bucher, Chris Cotton and Peter Hambro who will serve for the next three years.

7. A.O.B.

8. Date of next meeting: Spring 2024

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Vice Chairman: Mr S W Bocking