

Minutes of TOTH Lake Management Committee (LMC) 24 July 2024 at 7pm at the Oliver Roper Village Hall

LMC 24.015 Chair's welcoming remarks – Councillor Bindley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

LMC 24.016 Lake Management Committee

Membership: Cllr Bindley, Cllr Bramford, Cllr Sheldon MBE, Cllr Lyons, Mr B Hopkinson (Featherbenders and Flyfishers), Mr O Chapple (27th Lincoln Scouts), Mr T Magri, Vacancy (Parishioners).

Deputies Mr S Chaloner (Featherbenders and Flyfishers), Mr F Firth (27th Lincoln Scouts), Mrs S Lyons and Mrs A Houghton (Parishioners)

LMC 24.017 Present: Councillor's Bindley, Lyons and Sheldon, Mr Magri, Mr Hopkinson, Kerrie Vickers (Parish Clerk)

LMC24.018 Apologies: Councillor Bramford, Mr Chapple.

LMC 24.019 Public time no public in attendance

LMC 24.020 Declaration of interest and declaration of gifts and hospitality over £25: none

LMC 24.021 Minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2024 were accepted and signed as a true record

LMC 24.022 Review of outstanding agreed actions. The following actions were discussed.

Date	Actions	By whom
March 2023	Removal of redundant fencing. At present, the group has done as much as can be done. This will be revisited at a later date.	NL, MB, TM
November 2023	Water level indicator. Mr Chapple had outlined his proposal in an email prior to the meeting which is to place a pole with marks on it six feet from the edge. Should the level of the water drop below the foot of this pole then another would be placed approximately six feet further with marks coordinating with the first pole. This would allow a measurement of the rise or fall of the level of the water and be of interest to visitors at the lake. It was agreed to proceed with the proposal following the submission of a basic risk assessment and provided that at least 2 individuals be involved in the process.	OC

All actions from previous meetings have been completed or listed above

LMC 24.023 Financial matters

a. Expenditure to authorise.

12.07.2024 £175.00 grass cutting

b. Income to note

1.04.2024 £1000.00 Fishing club licence fee

c. Financial report 2024/25

Budget £2000.00 Total Spend £175.00

LMC 24.024 Funding Request

The Scout groups would like the committee to consider planting a hedge behind the scout huts to form screening. The members present had some questions regarding the rational and practicality of this request and required more information. To be deferred to the next meeting.

Action Mr Chapple.

LMC 24.025 Lake Inspection Reporting System

It is felt that the monthly check sheets are very tedious and serve no purpose and a suggestion made that in future it should be sufficient for the committee to rely on a report presented to the Lake Management Committee meeting with the proviso that should anything be seen as urgent then it is brought to the attention of the Parish Clerk to be dealt with as necessary.

Parish Clerk to check with insurance stipulations.

Action Parish Clerk

LMC 24.026 Mannequin/Scarecrow

The group discussed the request from the fishing club to place a mannequin/scarecrow in the middle of the island in the hope of deterring the cormorants. The fishing club were asked for some more information on the background of the effectiveness of this method and to provide some photographs of the proposal, in situ if possible.

Action Mr Hopkinson

LMC 24.027 Lake Inspection Report – sent by Mr Chapple via email

Everything seems to have settled down. Very little litter or dog mess. Very occasional fallen branch to clear away. Life rings regularly checked and there's never been a sign of interference. Signs adequate and legible.

All in all the lake seems to be being used as intended and those that use it do so carefully.

A small item that might be of concern is the increase in ragwort. I rather think there is no longer an obligation to control it and if so, then perhaps mowing will suffice.

LMC 24.028 Verbal Report from Wildlife Group

1. Reeds

Mr Magri advised that a section of reeds has been cut down at the NW corner and he thought, an agreement was in place that the reeds would be left uncut as they are a beneficial habitat for birds and insects.

He did add that the high-water level has encouraged reeds at the NE corner and, perhaps, it was time to think about management to improve growth in some areas and inhibit growth on others.

2. Grass Cutting

Mr Magri advised that has now become clear that the dream of having some wildflower areas at the lake would only be possible with a huge programme of cultivation and planting - raking over the ground and scattering seeds hasn't worked and added that they have neither the finances nor the healthy young volunteers for such a programme and, with climate change, it would be a gamble anyway.

Consequently, the wildlife group have been rethinking the grass cutting at the lake and at the moment, have simply cut a wide path around the whole area, leaving all other areas, apart from those managed by the Fishing Club, to develop naturally. There have been large numbers of flying insects in these areas and some wonderful peacock butterfly caterpillars on the nettles.

It is planned to do a full cut of the grass at the end of the growing season and added that this could possibly be the Please be advised that these are notes of the meeting taken by the Parish Clerk and cannot in any way be regarded as official minutes of Council proceedings until approved and signed at the next meeting.

annual regime from now on.

3. Wildflowers

In spite of the failure of the wildflower seeds, there are a few naturally present plants in bloom at the moment. The most notable are birds foot trefoil, mallow, white campion and ragwort.

4. Bulbs for the autumn

The bulbs planted last year have been very popular with visitors to the lake and a budget of £200 was agreed to purchase more bulbs to plant in the autumn.

5. Recruitment – the wildlife group still has a vacancy. Mr Magri agreed to attempt to fill the vacancy.

LMC 24.029 Report from Scouts Group – sent by Mr Chapple via email

There have been some very pleasant meetings of the younger members to do pond dipping and wildlife observation etc but no on-water or fire lighting activities.

LMC 24.030 Verbal Report from Fishing Group.

Mr Hopkinson advised that fishing was going quite well at the moment with the main issue being the weeds.

He advised that someone is regularly walking a large black dog off its lead around the lake which does cause alarm to the fishing club members as well as residents walking around the lake.

Cllr Bindley advised that unfortunately there was little the committee could do in these circumstances.

LMC 24.031 Date of next meeting 30 October 2024

Cllr Lyons commented that things at the lake were settled and had been for some time, and asked if it would be an opportunity to revisit the terms of reference for the LMC and amend the requirement of holding a meeting to a minimum of 2 meetings per year as opposed to the current 3.

It was agreed to add this to the agenda for discussion at the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm