

Minutes of TOTH Lake Management Committee (LMC)

30 October 2024 at 7pm at the Oliver Roper Village Hall

- Councillor Lyons welcomed everyone to the meeting. As the meeting wasn't quorate in accordance with the LMC terms of reference, the meeting proceeded as a working group meeting and any decisions needed would be agreed in principle and ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.

- Lake Management Committee

Membership: Parish Council - Jason Bramford (JB), Nick Lyons (NL), Bob Sheldon (BS) MBE, Featherbenders and Flyfishers – Brian Hopkinson (BH)
27th Lincoln Scouts - Oliver Chapple (OC). Parishioners - Tony Magri (TM)

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

- Present: Councillor's Lyons and Sheldon, Mr Chapple, Mr Hopkinson, Mr Magri, Kerrie Vickers (Parish Clerk)

Apologies were received from Councillor Bramford

- Tree removal. The circumstances surrounding the instruction of a professional for the removal of a tree in August 2024 was questioned. Cllr Lyons advised that the tree in question, whilst on Tarmac land, was deemed to be a danger to users of the lake because it was at a potentially dangerous angle at the entrance and a decision taken by the Chair and Parish Clerk to employ the use of a professional as a health and safety precaution. The alternative was to attempt to close off access to the lake.

The group discussed the use of volunteers at the lake to perform such tasks and were reminded that the parish councils volunteer policy stated that any task deemed to be high risk as detailed in the policy in the red risk category should only be carried out by suitable contractors. Adult volunteers with suitable professional expertise would be considered for the task but only with the approval in advance from the parish council following the submission of a risk assessment.

The Parish Clerk is still attempting to retrieve the funds from Tarmac and has requested details of their ground's maintenance company for future reference.

- Ongoing items

Date	Item	Current Status
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 and removed from the report for the time being.
November 2023	Water level indicator	Risk assessment received and makeshift water level indicator installed. OC asked if it would be possible to purchase a water level indicator at the cost of around

		£120 as the current one was not very visible. This was agreed in principle. This decision will be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.
July 2024	Fishing club request for scarecrow/mannequin on island.	BH advised that the issue with the cormorants had improved recently, and the use of a scarecrow/mannequin may no longer be necessary. This can be revisited in the future, if necessary, but the fishing club were made aware that early indications from users of the lake were not favourable to the proposal.
July 2024	Scouts request to plant hedge behind scout huts	OC advised that Scouts would like the opportunity to reinstate the hedging that was previously put in by Tarmac, but hadn't survived. The hedge would hopefully, eventually serve the purpose of 'disguising' the appearance of the scout's cabins. It was agreed that OC would contact Tarmac to seek permission to reinstate the hedge on their land and a budget of around £50 was agreed in principle. This decision will be ratified at the next Parish Council meeting.
July 2024	OC requested to amend lake inspection reporting system	Parish Clerk has checked with the insurance company and written inspection reports are required. OC proposed to simplify the reports and send them in an email format which was agreed in principle, following approval of the new format which would be agreed at the next Parish Council meeting.

- Financial matters
 - a. Expenditure to authorise.
 - 04.10.2024 £197.99 - Bulbs for wildlife group.
 - b. Income to note £0
 - c. Financial report 2024/25

Budget £2000.00 Total Spend £792.99

- LMC Constitution/Terms of Reference – Cllr Lyons discussed the formation of the LMC and the stable position they were in and asked if it would be an opportune time to amend the number of times the group met to twice a year.
After a discussion, it was agreed in principle that the terms of reference be amended to reflect that the LMC will meet at least twice a year with the option of calling an extra ordinary meeting at any point in between should this be deemed necessary.
This decision will be taken to the next Parish Council meeting.
- Verbal Report from Wildlife Group - The lake area, like everywhere else, has suffered from long periods of wet and dry. Many of the newer trees showed signs of autumn in the late summer. Hopefully, they've survived and will be ready again for the fight with climate change next season.

The final grass cut will be done soon but two of the areas to be cut contained fallen branches which had to be removed. A working party of 6 managed to clear them all in about 45 minutes. They have been placed out of the way in the wooded areas to provide a habitat for invertebrates.

Tenby daffodils, wood anemones and winter aconites have been purchased for autumn planting. This has started and will be completed once the final grass cut has been done. The scouts have also purchased 100 Tenby daffodils for planting in their area.

- Verbal report from Scouts Group – Following a recent successful kayaking event, the scout's group now have 7 people qualified to teach on the lake and are hoping to use the lake more frequently than of late. They would like to establish a format of how the scout groups can notify the other user groups of their intentions to be on the lake. OC was tasked with developing a format and the possibility of using signage to notify users that the scouts were using the lake was suggested.
- Verbal Report from Fishing Group. No news in terms of the club, however, the issue with the large dog, which is very boisterous and allowed to walk off lead was raised again. Cllr Lyons advised that the Parish Council would attempt to address the situation and insist that the dog be kept on a lead.
- Date of next meeting 2nd April 2025

Meeting finished at 8.15pm