# Minutes of Thorpe on the Hill Lake Management Committee (LMC) 21st October 2026 at 7pm at the Oliver Roper Village Hall

**Lake Management Committee**
**LMC 26.10.01**
Membership: Cllr Bramford, Cllr Lyons, Cllr Sheldon MBE, Mr P Firth (Featherbenders and Flyfishers), Mr O Chapple (27th Lincoln Scouts), Mr T Magri.

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

**Present:** Councillor's Bramford and Lyons, Mr Greenwood and Kerrie Vickers (Parish Clerk).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Sheldon, Oliver Chapple and Tony Magri.

**LMC 26.10.02** Chair's welcoming remarks and apologies for absence.

Councillor Lyons welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Bramford.

**LMC 26.10.03** Public time**.** No public in attendance.

**LMC 26.10.04** Declaration of interest and declaration of gifts and hospitality over £25: none

**LMC 26.10.05** It was noted that there appeared to be an outstanding item from the previous minutes of the meeting of 30th March 2026 for Mr Chapple to look into water quality testing. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would follow this up with Mr Chapple and the minutes were then accepted and signed as a true record. **Action Parish Clerk.**

**LMC 26.10.06** Lake Inspection Report
Mr Chappel sent his report ahead of the meeting.

The water level has steadily gone down and now about 10cms below the lowest mark. Mr Chapple wondered if the committee would like him to put in another measuring panel or reposition the one that's there.

Dog poo and litter occasional occurrences but considering the footfall not too serious. Mr Chappel added that Whisby Nature has adopted a policy of using a spray paint to circle offending deposits and wondered if that would that be useful practice to adopt to remind dog owners of their responsibilities or just an added eyesore?

Large heap of wood chippings should be a resource for a fair while. The fishing club are doing a good job spreading the chippings when necessary.

Cormorant numbers have been steadily increasing, which is possibly related to the drop in water and more fish concentrated in a smaller area.

The Scouts have removed the two containers that had deteriorated and replaced with one from Sudbrook. It does need a lick of paint but is not ugly or spoiling the view.

**LMC 26.10.07** Lake Map.

The amendments made to the lake map were agreed.

**LMC 26.10.08** Financial matters

a. Expenditure to authorise.
   14.05.2026 £100.00 Taylor Tree Services Tree work
   01.07.2026 £174.00 MEC Recycling Wood chippings

b. Income to note £0
   14.05.2026 £1000.00 Lincoln Featherbenders Licence fee

   09.10.2026 £100.00 Scouts Licence fee

c. Financial report
   Expenditure
   Budget £1000.00 Total Spent £274.00

   Income
   Budget ~~£1500.00~~ £1100.00 Total Received £1100.00

**LMC 26.10.09** Report from Wildlife Group

Mr Magri sent in his report ahead of the meeting.

Since the last meeting the water level has dropped to well below the bottom of the depth gauge. The water level is possibly the lowest it's ever been. To bring the lake up to where it was in March 2026 (just below 6 on the gauge) it would need more than the average annual rainfall for a year which is equivalent to more than 13000 cubic meters or 3,000,000 gallons of rain falling onto the lake.

The drought and excessive heat caused problems for most plants around the lake, and it will be interesting to see whether the damage is permanent. We'll know in the spring.

The tireless efforts of our volunteers should ensure the survival of the fruit trees. During the height of the drought, we had a watering rota with up to 10 gallons of water being given to each tree every other day. The young oak trees and the oak saplings also benefitted from regular watering. Strange things happened after the rain in August, when we saw new leaves on the lime trees, and in October, when candle flowers and leaves appeared on the ends of the branches on the horse chestnut tree. This looked dead earlier in the year.

Birds foot trefoil and yellow toadflax thrived during the drought. The grass made a remarkable recovery, as it seemed to do right across the country.

Later in the year we will be organising working parties to plant bulbs and tidy round the orchards.

**LMC 26.10.10** Report from Scouts Group

Mr Chapple sent in his report ahead of the meeting.

The last LMC meeting was 30th March 2026 and since then the scout group have had a number of days collecting bugs and generally appreciating the flora and fauna down at the lake. There have been a number of successful evenings on the lake using the kayaks and canoes. Some of those youngsters were extremely apprehensive but have now been given confidence. It's amazing to see them participating in the games and activities on the water some of which mean they fall in and need to be shown how to rescue themselves. Teamwork is also a big feature when they have to work together manoeuvring their craft to get them in the right position. All subtly giving them experience and confidence which will last a lifetime.

At the beginning of July we had a whole day of water activities when we had 30 Cubs and 11 Scouts on the water. 8 or 9 of the leader time and also a number of young leaders so about 50 of us on the water in four time slots. All highly organised and very successful. The fishing club were kept informed and were very supportive of our activities. Hopefully we will be able to have more sessions like that when the weather gets warmer.

The two defunct containers have now been removed and the site cleared. With your back to the lake those are the one in the middle and the one to the left. The one to the left has been replaced with a good metal container donated by the Sudbrooke Parish Council. Eventually painting will be required but at the moment the visual impact is low and painting will get done when the weather is appropriate.

**LMC 26.10.11** Report from Fishing Group.

Mr Greenwood advised that all was going well with the club with membership now up to 43. Despite the heatwaves of the Summer, they have had a good season.

The club has recently had a training session on lake dipping around the margins of the lake and were pleased to see that the lake is teaming with wildlife.

In follow up to a previous meeting, Mr Greenwood has produced a welcome letter for new club members to include a section on lake etiquette to directly address the interaction of the club members with other users of the lake. Councillor Lyons agreed this was a very good initiative and a welcome edition.

Ahead of the meeting Mr Greenwood had sent in a number of concerns that has been raised by the club members.

1. Reed Management - The reeds in the Southwest corner of the lake are beginning to spread significantly along the banks (East and North), reducing the clubs fishing area. Could the committee please discuss how these reeds are to be managed in order to stop them spreading further and return the area already lost?

   It was agreed that the Parish Council would seek professional advice on this. **Action Councillor Lyons.**

2. Weed Management - Over recent years the lake has seen a significant increase in the amount of weed around the margins during spring/summer, this is making the lake unfishable for approximately three months of the year. The weed is now growing well beyond wading/grapnel distance, leaving the club with no practical means of managing this issue. The club request that the committee discuss either; 1. Practical methods of weed management that the club could use e.g. a boat, or 2. A reduction in the licence fee that the club pays in order to cover the cost of a professional weed removal service.

   It was noted that it may be necessary to have a professional week clearance management company to deal with this. Mr Greenwood advised that the club could have the resources amongst their group to do this and

was asked to put forward a proposal for what methods they would need to use to achieve this. **Action Mr Greenwood.**

3. Poaching/Illegal Fishing - The club has noted a significant rise in the number of poaching/illegal fishing instances on the lake. The club requests that the committee discuss the provision of either CCTV, additional signage or other security arrangements in order to protect the club's investment in fish stocks.

Mr Greenwood advised that the Police and the Environment Agency Fishing Bailiff have been contacted but it is very difficult to police these matters.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would put a notice in the View from the Hill magazine to remind residents that it is illegal to fish in the lake without a permit and accompany this with advise on how people can apply to join the club and appeal to younger residents in particular.

4. Cormorants - The number of cormorants on the lake currently is nearly into double figures, with these birds having a major impact on the number of fish stocked by the club. The club requests that the committee discuss acceptable methods that the club can use to control the number of birds inhabiting the lake e.g. green laser pens, sound devices etc.

It was noted that any methods of control would be very controversial to other users of the lake and not an option.

Councillor Lyons advised that should this become a major issue for the club, the annual licence fee could be negotiated.

**LMC 26.10.12** Any other comments

Councillor Lyons advised he has received an email regarding the wood chippings containing plastic. He advised that the chippings were bought from a recycling company as 100% wood chippings were unaffordable and the particles of plastic are very small and it is impractical to so anything about them.

**LMC 26.10.13 Date** of next meeting. 24th March 2027

Councillor Lyons thanked everyone for their contributions and the meeting concluded at 20:00hrs.

**Appendix A**

# Lake Diagram - Updated Sept 2026

