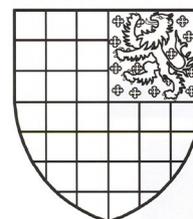


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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

of the meeting of the **Landport Bottom Management Committee**, held on **Wednesday 7th October 2020**, online via Zoom Meetings at 7:00pm.

PRESENT Cllrs Bird; Burrows; Handy; Henman and O'Keeffe.

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk [TC]*); Ms T Outram (*Lewes District Council Special Adviser; Downland & Reserves*)

LBMC2020/11 **QUESTIONS:** There were none Two members of the Friends of Landport Bottom were present.

LBMC2020/12 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies had been received from Cllr Sains, who was unwell, and Cllr Vernon, who was working.

LBMC2020/13 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllrs Bird and Handy declared that they live adjacent to Landport Bottom.

LBMC2020/14 **MINUTES: it was resolved that**

LBMC2020/14.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2020 are received and signed as an accurate record.

LBMC2020/15 **REPORT on SITE MANAGEMENT**

Members received a brief update report on operational matters from Ms Outram, which stated:

Grazing: Two separate groups of Southdown sheep were tupped (mated) at Landport Bottom. The group being serviced in the small field had done well and the shepherd reported many successful pregnancies. The group in the Tumuli field did not do so well with less pregnancies. This was possibly because the ram was young and inexperienced or could have been increased disturbance/other factor. This group of 10 sheep would be removed for a second attempt back at Plumpton College. All ewes – a mixture of pregnant and non-breeding ewes including Southdowns and other breeds - had been moved to the pond field where they would spend most of the winter.

Infrastructure: Annual 'cut and collect' had been taking place in parts of all fields. New permanent oak signs warning of sheep in fields had been installed and others were being repaired. These signs had a significant effect on the amount of sheep worrying.

Contractors continue to repair gates and fences as needed

Surveys: The flora survey attracted skilled plant surveyors from all over Sussex including some locals and friends of Landport Bottom. It was noted to be the biggest turnout of volunteers since the programme commence. The grassland was surveyed using the 'HLS-plus' assessment method with many plants also recorded beyond those the stewardship agreement required.

Overall, the numbers and frequencies of indicator species had increased slightly since the last full surveys in 2015 and 2018. Members were reminded that chalk grassland restoration is recognized to be a very slow process.

General: Anthills were being left to assist butterfly population growth. In answer to a question regarding disturbance to skylarks, it was stated that observations suggested they were thriving.

Members thanked Ms Outram for her helpful and informative report.

LBMC2020/16 **UPDATE to SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Further to discussions at the previous meeting, the committee considered the latest

revisions to the draft update to the Site Management Plan, which would represent the third major revision since the original Plan was adopted and was designed to cover a five-year period.

There followed a lengthy discussion on various points of detail, and submissions were noted for elements to be added to produce a final draft, which would be prepared for review by Ms Outram.

LBMC2020/17

BENCH SEAT

Members had previously considered a request to install a bench seat. The applicant had been advised that as a general principle, man-made structures were only installed at Landport Bottom if essential to the management of the land *eg.* water troughs for livestock. Such things as bench seats and litter bins were not considered in-keeping with the land's natural state and its management within environmentally-sensitive land programmes. It had been agreed that a clear policy statement might helpfully be included in the revised Site Management Plan. There was interest in the possibility of an 'invisible' structure such as a stone-filled and grassed gabion which could be constructed so as to blend with natural contours of the land. This would be investigated and a section inserted into the final draft of the Plan.

LBMC2020/18

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed, and thanked everyone for their attendance. *The meeting closed at 8:00pm.*

Signed date.....

Draft