

# COPPETT HILL COMMON TRUST LTD

Registered Office: **Oldfields, Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9  
6JG  
01600 890075**

## AGM

### Minutes of meeting 26th October 2023

<b>1</b>	Present - 19 shareholders and 5 officers.	
<b>2</b>	Directors' report, Accounts and Auditors report- adopted.	
<b>3</b>	Mr G Woodward, Mr I Brown and Mr J Perkin re-elected as directors.	
<b>4</b>	Mr M Rowberry stood down as an 'A' director but continued as the Parish Council representative.	

## GENERAL MEETING

<b>1</b>	<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. The full report is part of AGM agenda as a paper document.</b></p> <p>Chairman gave a resume. Thanks to P Chatterton for being chairman during the covid pandemic and for his years of work before that as secretary. Thanks also to fellow directors, wildlife experts and all those who had helped to ease him into his role as chairman.</p> <p><b>Highlights of past year</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tractor had been serviced and was now running very well, mowing open areas of the hill.</li><li>• Work parties had mended fences, steps, handrails and cleared 2 dewponds - frogs and Great Crested Newts had been seen in the latter. Sycamore clearance had continued on west side of hill.</li><li>• Bracken bash at the lime kilns done. There were plans to make this area more open again.</li><li>• The vegetation near the folly had become overgrown and it was planned to do some cutting back to restore the views through gaps in the growth.</li><li>• 20 dormouse boxes had been purchased at cost price and were in process of being deployed.</li><li>• A fungus survey had been done.</li><li>• Goodrich Primary School had had a day on the hill with educational and practical activities. This had been a success and would be repeated.</li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work to draw up a formal risk assessment for activities on the hill would be started.</li><li>• A management group had been restarted and had already held several meetings.</li><li>• A web site was in development to improve awareness of the hill, and spread information about activities and work parties. It is hoped to increase the pool of volunteers.</li><li>• With the potential costs of dealing with ash dieback, additional sources of revenue might have to be sought.</li></ul>	
<b>2</b>	<p><b>ASH DIEBACK POLICY</b></p> <p>Dieback is a national problem and we have to accept it. There are probably thousands of ash trees on the hill, so we can't deal with them all. Some that are a potential danger to property are already being attended to. In general, the Trust will only look to dealing with trees that are a threat to life, property or roads.</p> <p><b>It is proposed that</b> – a. healthy trees will not be touched b. diseased trees that are a threat to the public will be dealt with by professionals. c. trees that may pose a risk to property – discuss with the owners. d. diseased trees posing no threat to public or property yet but might fall on a footpath (for instance), to be dealt with by a work party. e. diseased trees of no threat to be allowed to die and fall in their own time.</p> <p><b>Question from the floor.</b> Was there a better way to avoid having to apply for permission on every tree – they all have a Preservation Order.</p> <p>It was suggested that having the Forestry Commission involved would make everything much simpler, but we no longer had a contact related to them. How to resurrect the relationship was a conundrum.</p> <p>Also pointed out that every tree should be replanted with another. Secretary explained that when applying for permission to fell, he had pointed out that the hill was</p>	

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	covered in mature trees and replanting unnecessary – the trees officer had not disagreed.	
<b>3</b>	<b>WORK PARTIES.</b>  Dates were pencilled in for 5 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2023, 21 <sup>st</sup> January 2024, 25 <sup>th</sup> February 24, 20 <sup>th</sup> October 24, 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> November 24.  Secretary to advise shareholders, management group and volunteers of these dates.	
<b>4</b>	Chairman asked for suggestions/ideas on improving conservation, finance, publicity/online presence and miscellaneous. These could be written on post-it notes provided, to be collected at end of meeting, for directors to assess.	
<b>5</b>	<b>BUTTERFLY REPORT</b> Good news this year, the numbers have increased. They are still not great but probably viable. Most species had increased, Red Admirals noticeably so. Only 1 Pearl Bordered Fritillary was seen.	
<b>6</b>	<b>DEER AND BOAR REPORT</b> No build up of boar this year. They seem to prefer the Yat end of the ridge, possibly because many oak and chestnut trees are there. One night camera had recorded a sow with 5 young. Muntjac deer had noticeably increased, with only a small increase in fallow deer. Unusually, an occasional roe deer was seen this year. Culling would have to continue, concentrating on does.	
<b>7</b>	<b>REPTILE REPORT</b> 4 species were still present on the hill. Slowworms are plentiful. Adders about the same numbers. A marked decrease in lizards for unknown reasons- this would be monitored. The worst problem for reptiles was the disturbance on the hill by visitors, particularly their dogs.	
<b>8</b>	<b>AOB</b> None	

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