

Present: Martyn Booth, Susanna Checketts, Ian Goddard(Chair),
Richard Hammond, Dan Hurcomb

Apologies: Ian Banks, Carla Goodwin

Minutes for meeting of 7th September: approved

Collation of current information a survey of Ballsgate Common was made in 2007; 1995/6 – 2012 historical information and Martyn's own Yatton Hill sightings were collected – no recorded sightings from either Ballsgate or Yatton Marsh.

Query = are we posting this on website? Info was from a publicly available site. A possible list of sightings only (species) since 2000 was suggested (Yatton Hill). Records of specific dates together with times and information on species recorded would be helpful.

Dan suggested pictures where possible to help identification, from elsewhere if necessary, to be replaced with originals as available.

Martyn would compile list of all species; Susanna would provide her list of birds & butterflies. Flower list to be sorted out later. Lists recommended to come out every 3 months (onto website?) in parallel with Aymestrey Matters.

Dan would contact a bat expert re bats and bat detector.

Martyn would write another piece re the commons in Aymestrey Matters (to go onto website), and put in an appeal for local memories of the commons – this could aid funding requests.

Communications Nothing heard from Butterfly Conservation; Martyn would try again in spring. Helen was intending to contact Nigel Hands (reptiles).

Re funding, Martyn had contacted Hereford Wildlife Trust and would discuss possible help. Herefordshire Council had not been formally told of APCA; Ian Goddard would inform them and also see if APCA can be consultees in future planning. Dan suggested a quarterly update for all, possibly an open forum after meeting.

Re website emails – **Martyn needed access to see emails received.**

Agenda for next meeting to be sent out to Committee plus any interested parties.

An open meeting in spring was **proposed, date to be set at the next meeting.**

Constitution Draft now on website (apca.aymestrey.org) **Agenda item for next meeting**

Progress re bracken bashing, Martyn reported that the path was improved for the time being.

re insurance – Parish Council would have liability insurance; could they organise the commons work and so take responsibility? Would personal equipment be covered? Dan and Ian Goddard would investigate. The Footpaths Officer was covered if next to footpath; could Parish Lengthsman be brought in for big jobs? Andrew Nixon could be contacted re possible insurance agenda.

Surveys re Yatton Hill - Martyn and Richard had looked at this ; Martyn suggested finishing path down to Hole; scrub and briars needed cutting – 2 people + hedgetrimmer would work.

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re ?Ballsgate? Carla had reported a tree down at the top and fierce briars; she suggested horse-drawn bracken bashing. Cattle-grazing (with electric collars) was a thought for the future.

The Committee needed to acknowledge the work done by Derek & Peter at the hole.

re Yatton Marsh East - very overgrown with bindweed and ground elder; this could be trimmed – Martyn has bar-mower and brushcutter. Query – did drainage ditch need clearing? Martyn suggested aiming at 50% clearance. Query – what was legal position re size of trees cut? It was commented that Nicola should be consulted.

re Ballsgate – **leave on Agenda; Carla to be asked to report** - Richard would also look at this.

Work parties *re the Hole* – machines to be used, no public help; Martyn and Richard to investigate further. Further up the hill, footpath at least to be cleared.

Re Yatton Marsh – East Section to be cleared, especially bindweed; if possible, any wood to be used for Bonfire Night – a fire on the Marsh would need landowner's permission. 2 work parties suggested in the following order: first, small group to cut anything bigger, second with volunteers to clear bindweed etc. Richard and Martyn would sort out time for cutting (light clearing); Ian Goddard would contact Nicola re this.

Suggested work dates:

Yatton Marsh East, Saturday 12th November chopping to take place first.

Ian Goddard would organise work parties.

Hole work to take place after New Year.

Date of next meeting: **Wednesday 16th November 2022, 7pm.**