

# The Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust

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Notes from the Informal Membership meeting of the Blaxhall Commons and Open Spaces Charitable Trust - Saturday March 4<sup>th</sup> 2017 – 4:00pm – at Sue and Mike Cowling's

## **Attendance:**

Joy Shaw  
Sharon Cullen  
Karen Baker  
Jasper Walter  
Eve Rossor (minutes)  
Martin Rossor  
Andrew Derrick  
Sophie Martin  
Mike Cowling  
Sue Cowling

## **Apologies:**

Geraldine Purves  
Mike Gross  
Rosy Thornton  
Derek Daley  
Zuita Daley  
Maggie Grenham  
Rodney West  
Anne Chapman

The membership thanked Mike and Sue for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

## **Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) article**

Joy fed back on her husband and her two visits to Workhouse Common, and her encounter with the owner. Workhouse Common and the track along it are not signposted, and the boundary is not clear.

**Action:** To clarify the boundary of Workhouse Common-Eve to consult Maggie.

Joy outlined what she would put in the limited space available to her in the SWT newsletter article, which was supported. A draft was circulated soon after the meeting and minor modifications made.

**Action:** Joy to send to SWT

## **Website**



It was agreed that we need to emphasise that all the Commons are under private or PC ownership, and although it is Common land with rights of access, individuals need to be aware that they may be near people's properties.

**Action:** Jeff to modify website to reflect this

Sightings of flora/fauna/changes. Need to provide a way for members to add observations and someone to monitor this. Martin R volunteered.

**Action:** Jeff to develop method of access and liaise with Martin re monitoring  
Ensure link to blaxhall.com

### **Footpaths and Rights of Way (RoW)**

These are important for access to Open Spaces and Commons. There was a discussion about the 2026 deadline for registering unrecorded RoW. Jasper and Karen have had a footpath reinstated after contacting the SCC Footpaths officer.

Agreed that we should get a copy of the definitive map

**Action:** Jasper to provide Eve with Footpaths officers contact details-done

**Action:** Eve to contact the officer about the definitive map

Maps also need sourcing e.g. old OS explorer maps, Inland Revenue 1910 Finance Act documents, tithe maps, and create a full picture of those footpaths which exist as registered and those which have 'lapsed' or become incomplete to be created.

Agreed to get a map of Blaxhall parish, and members take an area to walk and take photographic evidence and put on the website. Riding survey also suggested.

### **Map of the Commons**

It was suggested that we should have leaflets showing the Commons and paths available at the notice boards, Youth Hostel and pub, with email and website addresses. Need to check on copyright issues. A possible risk of disturbing wildlife if too many visitors was noted.

### **Next meeting:**

Any member can convene a meeting! Eve will let the membership know when useful maps have been located.