

The Blaxhall Commons & Open Spaces Charitable Trust

c/o Mill Walk House · Blaxhall · Woodbridge · Suffolk · IP12 2HN
tel 01728 688751 email contact@BlaxhallCommonsTrust.org.uk
www.BlaxhallCommonsTrust.org.uk

Trustees Report for the Blaxhall Commons and Open Spaces Charitable Trust AGM 1.4.17

Introduction of Trustees- Nigel Suckling, Jeff Hume, Mark Oakley, Eve Rossor.

Thanks given to Steve Smedley, a founding trustee who resigned in the autumn, and without whom the Trust might not have come into existence.

Summary of the year:

Open Meetings

The first Open Meeting was held in March 2016. The focus was on gaining the villagers' views on the Commons and Open Spaces. Around 50 people attended and the findings were put on the Trust's website. Rod West gave a fascinating talk on the history of Common land.

The second Open Meeting was held in November, and the findings of the March meeting revisited. Rod gave another great talk on Blaxhall's Farming Past.

Trust Membership:

Those who expressed an interest in becoming a member at the March meeting met in July to discuss issues relating to membership, and confirmed in November that application forms should be distributed via Ebb and Flow, with fees of £5 for family and £3 for individual annual membership. The membership currently stands at 36.

The membership met in March and agreed that a focus should be made on Footpaths in Blaxhall, possibly allocating sections of the parish for individuals to walk, taking photos of flora, fauna and any items of note, to be uploaded on the Trust website- blaxhallcommonstrust.org.uk. To register as a member on line please visit:- <http://www.blaxhallcommonstrust.org.uk/membership/>

Assets of Community Value:

The Trust was made aware through the formal council channels that two areas of Mill Common might be up for purchase. The Trustees obtained a professional valuation prior to approaching the landowner to register an interest within the required timescale. The landowner declined the offer and stated that the land was not for sale.



Environmental Assessment:

Financed by a grant from the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB Community and Conservation fund, the Trust engaged Suffolk Wildlife Trust to undertake an environmental assessment of the commons in and around Blaxhall(excluding the Great Common) and The Pit in the Blaxhall playing fields.

The report has just been received and needs more scrutiny and sharing with the Village and membership. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the findings and agree whether actions need to be taken.

Litter Picks:

The AGM follows on from the first Litter pick of the year in 2017 on the 1st of April 2017, with a second litter pick for 2017 planned for Saturday April 8th 2017. Two further picks are planned for October 2017. In 2016 the Trust received £20 from Norse for last year's four litter picks and we were successful in their prize draw, obtaining £200.