

Shelfanger Parish Council Meeting 9.10.23
Boyland Common Report

On 30th July 2023 Pam Ross, Chairwoman of the ‘Friends of Boyland Common’ sent an email to District Councillor James Easter asking if there had been any further news on whether the District Council would be looking to upgrade the surface of the access points to the Common, and also assist with the funding of a replacement Information Board.

We are greatly indebted to our District Councillor for his part in putting us in touch with the Communities Assets Manager, Mr. Jamie Henry, who contacted Pam Ross by phone on 8th August in order to clarify one or two points about the Common, and to indicate that a site visit would be arranged in early September.

On 6th September the ‘hay’ on the Common was cut, and on 12th September it was baled and carted. We are deeply indebted to the three local farmers who undertake to make sure that this work is done each year, the hay is of little value, but its removal is one of the fundamental management strategies that help to maintain the biodiversity of Boyland Common. Pam Ross has sent a letter of thanks to all three farmers.

On 13th September Jamie Henry called to say that he was in the area, and would like to meet up at the Common. Pam and Ron Ross met with Mr. Henry at very short notice.

The fact that, in the absence of an actual owner, the District Council is ‘deemed to be’ the owner, was clarified and accepted, and Mr. Henry looked at the management points that were causing concern, these being (i) the state of the access areas at the gates on both sides of the road, (ii) the two wobbly gate posts, one on each side of the road, and (iii) the replacement of the information board on the Common.

Mr. Henry indicated that it was possible that these projects could be funded by the District Council.

The willow saplings growing in the ditches are an ongoing issue. Our mini work force has not yet had the time to fully address this particular problem.

We also need to look to trimming back the branches on the tree that is beginning to obscure the access flight path to the Owl Box. These matters can be addressed over the Autumn and Winter when conditions allow.

Pam Ross now holds the key to the locked notice board in the bus shelter, so updating of any information concerning the Common can be achieved easily and quickly.

Pam Ross, Chair of ‘Friends of Boyland Common’