



WHITMOOR COMMON ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting
Worplesdon Cricket Club Pavilion
Tuesday 16 June 2026

Present

Committee Members

Mr Paul Rijbroek (Hon. Chairman)
Mr Tony Lawrence
Mr Neil Adams

Mr A Antcliff
Mr J Brown
Mrs P Chalkley
Mr D Collingwood
Mr H Gysin

Mr R Hancock
Mrs C Hancock
Mrs G Harris
Mr R Hartung
Mrs S Lawrence

The Chairman, Paul Rijbroek, welcomed everyone to the meeting, with particular mention to:

- Cllr Mitchell – Chairman Worplesdon Parish Council,
- Mrs Gaynor White, Clerk to Worplesdon Parish Council
- Mrs Marie Wingate who will replace Gaynor as Clerk on Gaynor's retirement later this year.
- Matthew Cornwall, Reserves Officer for Whitmoor Common, Surrey Wildlife Trust.

He explained that today the meeting would be recorded as the Hon Secretary position is vacant.

1. Apologies for absence

Mr & Mrs R Cannell
Mrs S Collingwood
Mr & Mrs W Field
Mrs E Rijbroek

Mrs J Routh
Mrs J Searle
Mr D Willis

2. Approval of Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 July 2025.

The following two corrections made - namely to the spelling of Andrew Antcliff and Gus Harris. They were proposed by Paul Rijbroek, and seconded by Donald Collingwood.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Corinna Heddle, our previous Treasurer, has resigned from the position, and Tony Lawrence has kindly offered to replace her.

Membership subscriptions - From 2022 no subscriptions to the WCA were requested. The reasoning is that something positive must come from an increased bank balance. No major undertakings are planned, but if new fencing or gates are required we have the funding.

Each year we hold a Christmas Tree event in aid of St Joseph's School PTA, In 2025 it raised £400 which will be used for new classroom rugs. We will apply again to the SCC for permission to hold this again this year - Sunday 6 December.

5. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Tony Lawrence advised that the Association has changed banks due to Lloyds Bank levying bank charges. We now bank with Virgin who do not charge us.

The balance in the account currently stands at £2,859.94

6. Approval of the statement of Receipts and Payments

Approved by Donald Collingwood and seconded by Andrew Antcliff.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members for the year 2026/27

- The re-election of Paul Rijbroek as Chairman was agreed by the meeting.
- Paul asked the meeting to approve Tony Lawrence as the new Treasurer. This was proposed by Neil Adams & seconded by John Brown.
- Those Members of the Committee - Neil Adams and Jane Searle - offered themselves for re-election, and were also approved by the meeting:
- The position of Secretary is currently vacant.

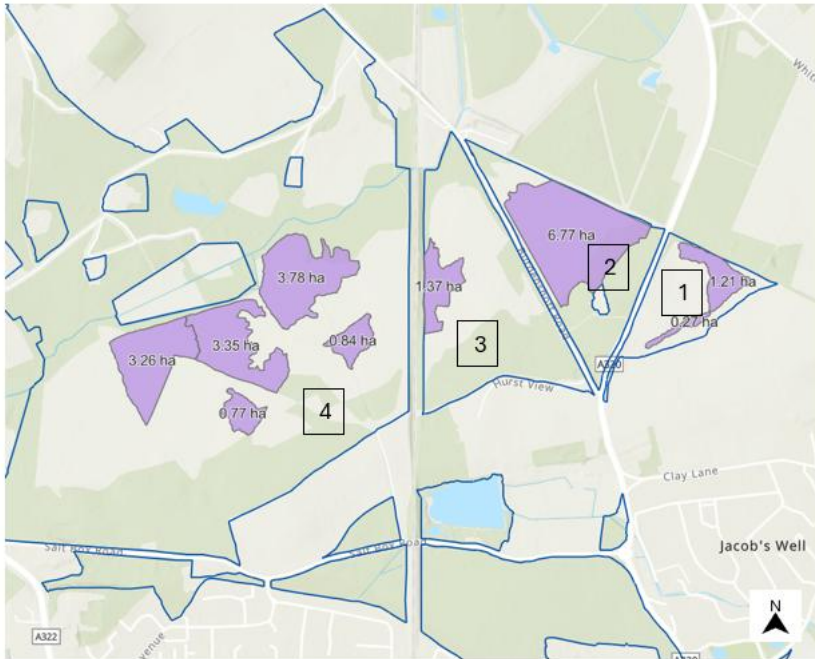
8. Presentation by Matthew Cornwell, Surrey Wildlife Trust.

Matthew provided an update on management activities undertaken on Whitmoor Common during the previous year:

Key points included:

- Continued heathland restoration through the removal of self-seeded birch and pine to maintain open heathland habitat and reduce woodland succession.
- Ongoing volunteer conservation work including pine removal, scrub control, bracken management and Himalayan balsam pulling.
- Two volunteer pine removal work parties were undertaken, resulting in 27 volunteer attendances and 104 volunteer hours.
- Conservation grazing continued using Surrey Wildlife Trust cattle, supplemented by sheep grazing through a local grazier, helping maintain habitat diversity and structural variation across the site.
- Scrapes have been created and maintained to provide areas of bare ground for specialist heathland species, including silver-studded blue butterflies and other invertebrates.
- Contractor works during the previous season focused on Area 1 due to the presence of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and its importance for breeding nightjars.
- The extent and maturity of birch encroachment within Area 1 was greater than originally anticipated, resulting in a larger amount of restoration work being required.
- Subject to available time and resources, contractor works are planned within Areas 2, 3 and 4 during the coming season, covering approximately 20.14 hectares in total.

Contractor work 2026/2027



- Two wildfires occurred on the common during the year, affecting approximately 2 hectares and 1 hectare respectively.
- Vegetation clearance was undertaken beneath the electricity transmission lines crossing the common. While necessary for infrastructure management, the works have left some areas untidy, and Surrey Wildlife Trust intends to undertake further work to improve their appearance.
- The common continues to show positive signs of recovery through habitat management, conservation grazing and volunteer effort, with improvements in habitat connectivity and structural diversity.
- Future priorities include further scrub and pine control, bracken management, Himalayan balsam removal, grazing management, scrape maintenance, habitat monitoring and restoration of areas affected by utility works.

9. AOB

Two enquiries have been received about the state of the Boardwalk. From Mrs Jenny Routh, who lives on the track leading to the Common from Salt Box Road, and also from Mr Donald Collingwood. The meeting was advised that the responsibility for its upkeep remains with Surrey County Council who can be contacted on countryside.estate@surreycc.gov.uk.

Mrs Routh intended to attend the AGM but sent her apologies.

She also enquired about the situation regarding the Horse Field. Gaynor White advised the meeting that the Parish Council is awaiting a reply from Guildford Borough Council concerning the field being put out to public tender.

Paul thanked everyone for coming, and Matthew for his very informative presentation.

Lastly, but not least, he thanked Gaynor for her help during the 27 years she has been Clerk to the Parish Council. She has always been the “go-to” person for any help/advice needed.

The meeting closed at 9pm.