

DRAFT

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ACTON FIELD TRUST HELD AT 7 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 8th OCTOBER

IN THE SMALL COMMITTEE ROOM, ACTON VILLAGE HALL

Present: Chair: Christine Johnson, Treasurer: Nick Antill, Secretary: Jenny Antill, Julie Black, John Gibbens.

- 1. Welcome** by the Chairman
- 2. The minutes** of the meeting of Acton Field Trust held on Wednesday 28th May 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman
- 3. Apologies for absence:** Barry Caradine
- 4. Declarations of interest:** None received

ADJOURNMENT for Public Forum. No members of the public were present.

5. Field Maintenance.

i) There are no outstanding estimates for work. JB and CJ met representatives from Creative Scapes at the field and outlined aims for the future. Creative Scapes will commence work on 13th October. After four days it was agreed that if the work is not complete CJ has discretion to allow them to continue for a reasonable period. Their activities will be confined to the interior area of the field, and decisions will be made later by the Committee with regard to work on the perimeter.

ii) It was confirmed that the visit to the field to mark and identify saplings to be retained had taken place.

iii) The Picus test on the oak tree adjacent to 19 Gotsfield Close has been received. No further action recommended. A further examination should be arranged in two to three years' time. JA to notify Mrs Wilkins at 19 Gotsfield Close of the results of the test.

iv) A grid plan has been created that divides the field into five parts to be cut on a five years cycle. This can be accessed by contractors by mobile phone. It was decided that the two triangular pieces of land at either end should be dealt with first. It was agreed to contact contractors in the spring with a view to commencing work in November. Cathy Smith at Suffolk Wildlife Trust should be informed of our plan, which was based on her advice.

v) It was decided to place an information board on the site to explain to members of the public the nature and reasons of work being carried out on the field to avoid misunderstandings. JG to look into cost of provision. It was agreed to order a sign from Auto Innovations for the photography post to explain how to use it. JB to advise wording.

6. Administration

- a) JA to send all minutes to JG for inclusion on the website
- b) It was decided not to create a policy with regard to requests from local organisations to use the field for activities since these can be considered on an ad hoc basis.

7. Equipment and other purchases. None since the last meeting.

8. Correspondence. None received.

9. Treasurer's Report

Over the nine months to end September AFT generated a surplus of £1,955.48, taking its cash balance from £4,524.05 to £6,479.53. Receipts included the sum of £491.28 which related to a tax credit that HSBC owed to Innominate and with which it subsequently credited AFT. Since end September AFT has incurred a small bank charge and a payment of £840 to Suffolk Tree Services for the PICUS test. It has also accrued some £855 in dividend that will be paid at end November.

Our investment in Cazenove Charity Equity Income Fund has, as of 7 October, been merged with the larger Cazenove Equity Value Fund, and we shall shortly receive details of our new holding in the latter fund. There is a significant overlap between the holdings of the two funds, though the Value Fund is likely, over time, to offer higher returns at the cost of slightly greater volatility. It is inevitable that equity funds will rise and fall with the overall equity market, and there will inevitably be periods of capital loss, as well as capital gain. As AFT is unlikely to sell its units it was agreed that a slight increase in volatility was not a cause of major concern.

It was agreed that the merger of the funds did not constitute a dramatic change and that there was no need to alter the existing investment policy, which remains in place for at least annual review.

10. Future Agenda Items

- i) Review of the proposed cutting schedule
- ii) Review management of the southern boundary of the field

11. Date of Next Meeting. First quarter of 2026

The meeting closed at 7.55

Jennifer Antill

Secretary

October 2025.