

INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE 4CS

7 JUNE 2007

The meeting took place at Castlemorton Parish Hall on Monday, 21 May 2007 at 8 p.m. with 35 people in attendance.

Prior to the meeting the Agenda had been circulated to:-

- ❑ The Clerk of Birtsmorton Parish Council on behalf of the owner of Coombe Green Common
- ❑ Castlemorton Parish Council
- ❑ Castlemorton Common Association
- ❑ Active graziers
- ❑ MHC representatives

and placed on notice boards in the Parish of Castlemorton. This was not a public meeting but a meeting following the recommendations of the Castlemorton Common Plan that suggested a formula of representation to which the public were not excluded.

The Conservation Officer explained that the Malvern Hills Conservators as owners of Castlemorton Common, together with the owner of Coombe Green Common, had responsibility for managing the land over which the graziers had commoners rights. The objective of the 4Cs was to be an advisory committee to progress stewardship and give feedback on the land management issues on the Commons. He understood the pressures on farmers from recreational use of the land, to changes in government subsidies and drew attention to the Stewardship Scheme which was an opportunity to obtain funds to continue grazing the Common in the historic and traditional way.

Several members of the public present felt that the meeting had not been adequately publicised and that the formation of the 4Cs was undemocratic with no representation from the recreational users of the Common. It was pointed out that at the open meeting held on the 28 March 2007, which had been advertised widely, had been the opportunity for the community at large to ask questions from organisations with an interest in the Common as well as the wide consultation which had taken place during the production by Land Use Consultants of the Action Plan for the Castlemorton Commons.

Those present were then asked whether there should be a Committee at all and if they were minded to form a Committee, whether it was possible to agree a formula for its constitution. It was generally agreed that an interim committee should be formed to take the matter forward and the following names were put forward:-

Angus Golightly	-	Castlemorton Parish Council
Med Snookes	-	Castlemorton Common Association
Roger Bates	-	Commoner
David Jones	-	Recreational user
Roger Gillard	-	Representative of the owner of Coombe Green Common and Clerk to Birtsmorton Parish Council
Anthony Bunn	-	Commoner
Richard Dawe	-	Commoner
Jeremy Webb	-	MHC

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A meeting of this interim committee would take place at Castlemorton Parish Hall on Tuesday, 12 June 2007 at 8 p.m. As neither David Jones, nor Jeremy Webb were available on that date, Reg Freeman and Sue Thetford would take their place.