



**BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD: 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016 AT 7:00PM**

**VENUE: ALL SAINTS, BOUGHTON**

Present:	The Chairman	Cllr Mark Pogmore
	Members	Cllr David Cooper
		Cllr Ian Davis
		Angela Faherty
		Cllr Tom Roberts
		Paul Smith
	Parish Clerk	Carole Edwards
	Members of the public	1

**1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies.

**2. Election of Chairman**

*Proposed by Cllr Roberts*

*Seconded by Mr Smith*

*'That Cllr Pogmore is elected Chairman of the Boughton Fen Committee.'*

*All in favour.*

**3. Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and matters arising**

*Proposed by The Chairman, Cllr Pogmore*

*Seconded by Mr Smith*

*'That the minutes of the Boughton Fen Committee meeting held on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (pages 40 to 42) be accepted as a true and accurate record'*

*All in favour.*

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman's report**

Nine working parties have been held over the winter, with thirteen volunteers participating.

We started off in fine style, cutting back and treating regrowth in some fairly large areas. The work was easily accessible, and good progress was made. Just as well that we chose these places first – the heavens opened during November, and by early December they could have only been reached in waders.



However, work has continued well in the drier areas, with the footpath being slightly re-aligned to avoid the boggy area in Highland Fen. Meanwhile, we had to prepare the area for this year's reed cut, and with all that water in the fen this was no mean feat. Thanks to the efforts of four intrepid, and fairly wet volunteers, the water levels in the respective area were reduced to allow our reedcutter to access.

Luck has been on our side, and a dry window in the weather allowed Stephen to get in with his machine and get cutting. Again, had he left it a few days, it would have been impossible with over 50mm of rain falling the following week. This also put paid to the working party planned for that Saturday to clear and burn the reed, as we woke to pouring rain that continued almost all day.

The following Saturday, things were much better, if somewhat wet underfoot. Wellies with no leaks were absolutely essential, and the majority of reed was gathered by a working party of eight, with a significant amount being burnt, and the rest to follow shortly. When I arrived that morning, it was a pleasure to see their smiling, muddy and smutty faces, enjoying a mid morning snack in the middle of the fen. Two further days cleared everything else up, and it was possible to reset the weir to allow the water to fill back up ready for the summer.

This winter has seen Brynmor Jenkins join us to complete the Community Service element of his Duke of Edinburgh award. He has worked really hard, and made a great contribution to the winter's effort.

Over the past few weeks I have encountered numerous visitors on the fen, almost daily. Many have travelled a considerable distance to come here, and are invariably experienced birdwatchers and photographers. They have been very impressed with the quality of our reed fen, and its wildlife. This is a huge compliment to our contractors and volunteers who have put in so much time and effort on the fen in the recent past.

As many of you know, I have been unexpectedly out of action, having been taken ill during November. Although I have been able to organise some things from my "command centre" at home, and more recently on foot, I would like to express my thanks to those Fen Supporters who have given me so much help, and without whom none of the above would have been possible.

## **5. Financial report**

The year end 31 March 2016 figures had been circulated (Appendix 1).

There has only been one transaction to date in relation to the Accounts for the 2016/2017 year.

**6. Annual review of health and safety information**

Cllr Cooper has carried out the review and a few updates are required.

In April 2016, the internal auditor advised that the risk assessment for Fen Management required reviewing. The risk assessment is being updated and will be completed before the next Boughton Fen Committee meeting.

Health and Safety documents from contractors will be signed off before the next Boughton Fen Committee meeting.

**7. Terms of reference**

Terms of reference for the Boughton Fen Committee are being reviewed by Boughton Parish Council as part of a complete document review.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.16pm.