



**BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**HELD: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 6.30pm**

**VENUE: ALL SAINTS, BOUGHTON**

Present:           The Chairman                           Cllr Mark Pogmore  
                          Members                                    Cllr David Cooper  
  Angela Faherty  
  Paul Smith  
  Andrew Faherty

                          Members of the public           Sue Pogmore who minuted the meeting

**1. Apologies for absence**

None.

**2. Election of Chairman**

*Proposed by Andrew Faherty*

*Seconded by David Cooper*

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

*All in favour.*

**3. Minutes of the Annual meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 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, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 be accepted as a true and accurate record'*

*All in favour.*

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman's report**

Last summer, the Fen Committee were invited to attend the 2017 Community Biodiversity Awards. Four of us went along to receive a 'Highly Commended certificate in the 'Watery wildlife and habitats section'

Working parties were well attended throughout the year, although some cancellations and re-arrangements had to take place due to the frequent very bad weather we experienced over the winter. Funding was granted by the EA to assist with the

*SM*  
*5/7/19*



installation of the second outfall, but due to the terrible conditions – excessive rainfall, snow and ice, it was impossible for the contractor to even contemplate starting the work. Natural England have, however, issued us with a permit to work in early October, so hopefully, things will have dried up a little by then.

The same weather conditions have made it impossible to achieve a reed cut. Our Natural England officer has given us leave to do a double cut next winter, due to what she has described as a force majeure.

Having taken professional advice regarding the condition of the large trees, and arranging suitable work to be carried out on them, nature once again took charge, and brought down a large portion of one of the willows that had appeared to be in good condition, necessitating further work from our contractor.

Working party volunteers adapted quickly to the challenges that arose throughout the winter, and we were able to deal with some of the problems ourselves. I am also pleased to report that fifteen year old Johnny Jenkins completed his Community Service section for his DOE Bronze award during this period.

Since then, it has been necessary to submit the first part of an application for Countryside Stewardship. Our usual officer, Diane, went on maternity leave during this process, but her replacement, Emma has been just as helpful and constructive as Diane had been. However none of them were very confident of a successful outcome to this due to the restructuring of the process to favour larger holdings.

At the same time, we were inspected by NE, without any warning at all, and I am pleased to report that the inspector was more than pleased with what he saw.

Even more surprising was the fact that Emma phoned during the last few days of May to let me know that Boughton Fen had survived the first round of the application process. She was extremely pleased, as was I, and she will now be working to make our application into a practical document.

In all it has been a year of ups and downs, and I would like to thank all those who have given up so much time and energy. My thanks have also gone to the Natural England staff who appear to work way beyond a normal day to give us the help that we have needed.

## **5. Financial report**

The year end 31 March 2018 figures had been circulated

Net current assets are £6853.42. The Hawk and Owl outstanding debit of £300 has been written off on the advice of the clerk.

SMP  
5/7/19



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

Andrew Faherty reported that all documents are reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

**7. Terms of reference**

The existing TOR is to remain as it is.

Post meeting note: There had been some discussion on one or two items within the TOR. It also came to light subsequently that the TOR does not reflect some items in the newly adopted Parish Council policies. The Chairman has discussed this with the Parish Chair, and some amendments will be necessary.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 6.48pm.

SMP  
5/7/19