



# minutes

**Meeting Minutes of the  
Boughton Fen Committee  
Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009  
Location: 'The Hawthorns', Boughton**

## **1 Present**

Mark Pogmore (MP) – Chair  
Angela Faherty (AF)  
Allan Hale (AH)  
Kevin Fisher (KF)

## **2 Apologies**

Frank Reid (FR)  
David Cooper (DC)

## **3 Matters Arising/Action List from Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

- 3.1 No matters arising.
- 3.2 BFC reviewed action list, updates appended to these minutes.

## **4 Budgets and Financial Report**

- 4.1 AF tabled latest Accounts Report.
- 4.2 Capital Works grant for £809 received.

## **5 Programme of Works – September to December 2009**

- 5.1 Progress on Contracting Work, Scrub, Reeds and Tree felling.
  - 5.1.1 Reed cutting performed, clearing of debris a big task. Discussion ensued on the fact that we are doing a lot of manual work and whether there are more efficient methods of working available to us?

**Action 120:** AH to investigate optimum way of working for reed cutting 2010 and onwards.



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## 5.2 Vermin Control

5.2.1 The issue of vermin control was discussed.

**Action 121:** MP to write to Parish Council to inform and agree vermin control.

5.2.2 Mink raft installed at Otter Bridge but no evidence of mink activity. This may coincide with the arrival of the otter who will be dominant over mink.

## 6 Seepage into Stringside Drain

6.1 There are a number of gullies along Stringside that leech water into the drain from Middle Fen. It is suspected that these are naturally formed but AH suggests an 'exploratory dig' by raking existing debris away to confirm that there are no other underlying reasons for this seepage.

**Action 122:** AH to perform dig.

## 7 Fencing

7.1 The fence line for the grazing area on Highland Fen has been established/marked out. Some of this will need discussion with Bill Chapman where the boundary abuts his field (Action 116). All paperwork needs to be completed.

**Action 123:** MP to complete paperwork and circulate to Committee for comment and review.

## 8 AOB

8.1 DC had raised concern via e:mail over the felling of the three willows along Stringside Drain. Further discussion was held regarding the need to ensure this type of work was well publicised and to give an opportunity for the general public to raise any concerns. It was suggested that it could be done at Parish Council meetings?!

8.2 It was asked whether the BFC were mandated to hold an AGM?

**Action 124:** FR/MP to investigate whether this is needed as part of the PC rules.

8.3 Following our success in the 'Forward to the Future' category of the 2009 Pride in Norfolk Awards, the children of Boughton were asked for their views on what they would like to see within the village. One of the suggestions was for a Bird Box Webcam and the PC has charged the BFC with investigating the options.

**Action 125:** KJF to investigate and cost options.



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8.4 The issue of litter being discarded on The Fen was discussed.

**Action 126:** KJF to contact FR and arrange a litter picking working party.

8.5 MP has spoken to Wereham Woodland Trust and suggests an invite for them to come to the Fen and see what we are doing. All in agreement.

**Action 127:** MP to speak to Lynda Eddy and make invite.

8.6 To ensure we are fully productive on our Working Parties we need to ensure a schedule of activities that correspond to our obligations in our Management Plan is available.

**Action 128:** AH to develop list of suitable activities.

8.7 Working party dates - 10<sup>th</sup> January, 21<sup>st</sup> February and 14<sup>th</sup> March.

8.8 Date of next meeting Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## ACTION LIST STATUS

No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
7	MP	to progress resolution of the council drain problem	24/10/07	5/12/07	On-Going –Mark continues to progress with NE
65	AH	to look at developing a quiz as a future fund raising event	08/07/08	31/07/08	On-going
67	MP	to pursue options regarding sheep grazing on The Fen	08/07/08	31/08/08	MP progressing and putting feelers out for potential grazers
85	MP	to pursue the requirement for a felling licence with NE	05/11/08	30/11/08	On-going – AH seen Forestry Commission. Studies need to be performed (bats in particular). Slow and convoluted process. Likely to be late 2010.
87	All	to view the proposed route for creating a circular walk to assess viability	05/11/08	15/12/08	Complete – Possible route identified. Further work required
95	FR	to contact the IDB to discuss arrangements for keeping vegetation down on stringside Drain throughout the year	11/02/09	28/02/09	Complete – Agreement reached with IDB for vegetation control , along with Geoff Proctor and volunteer works
102	All	to agree the scope of contractor works for 2009/2010	29/04/09	30/06/09	Complete
103	AH	to discuss scale of problem of reed debris removal.	29/04/09	30/06/09	Complete



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No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
105	MP	to obtain contractor quotes for gate installation	29/04/09	30/05/09	On-going – No quotation sought, MP advised we would be unlawfully in breach of the Commons Land Act 2006, Section 38 and need to wait until submission of formal application to fence grazing area
108	AH/FR	to go down Fen and target problem areas of re-growth.	19/08/09	20/08/09	Complete
109	FR	to contact Gerald Alison of IDB and ask advice on dealing with re-growth	19/08/09	30/09/09	Complete
110	AH	to pursue Contractors to get formal quotes for scrub removal and to advise BFC on progress.	19/08/09	30/09/09	Complete
111	FR	to contact Bill Chapman to see whether he would be able to trim the overhang at the 'Y' junction by Middle and Lower Fen	19/08/09	30/09/09	On-going
112	AH	to obtain quote for cutting before we arrange a working party.	19/08/09	30/09/09	Complete
113	MP	to invite BTCV representative to look at site and provide advice for reed removal / clearance	19/08/09	30/09/09	Complete
114	ALL	to mark-out fence-line with stakes on November 8 <sup>th</sup> . Meet	19/08/09	08/11/09	Complete

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No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
		at 13:00 and also walk circular route afterwards.			
115	AF	to investigate sourcing stakes for marking out.	19/08/09	08/11/09	Complete
116	AH/MP	to talk to Bill Chapman regarding proposed fence-line.	19/08/09	08/11/09	On-going
117	AH	to investigate whether NWT would be able to assist with mink trapping.	19/08/09	30/09/09	Complete – Mink raft in place but no evidence of activity. Otters are dominant over Mink so perhaps nature has taken it's course
118	AF/KF	to think about content and production of 2009 Newsletter with a November issue date.	19/08/09	30/10/09	On-going – No real progress.
119	AF	to pursue Wildlife Surveying Kit Case Study with NWT	19/08/09	30/09/09	Complete – Spoke to NWT onus on them to contact us if they are interested
120	AH	to investigate optimum way of working for reed cutting 2010 and onwards	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
121	MP	to write to Parish Council to discuss and agree a suitable method for vermin carcass removal	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
122	AH	to perform an 'exploratory dig' of one or two of the gullies along Stringside Drain	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
123	MP	to complete fencing paperwork	02/12/09	30/01/10	New



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No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
		and circulate to Committee for comment and review			
124	FR/MP	to investigate whether a BFC AGM is needed as part of the PC rules	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
125	KJF	to investigate and cost the options for a bird box webcam	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
126	KJF	to contact FR and arrange a litter picking working party	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
127	MP	to speak to Lynda Eddy of the Wereham Woodland Trust and invite them to visit The Fen	02/12/09	30/01/10	New
128	AH	to develop list of suitable activities for our upcoming working parties	02/12/09	30/01/10	New