



BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD: 5TH JUNE 2015 AT 7:28PM

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 Woolnough
	Members of the public	1

1. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of meeting 06/03/15

Proposed by the Cllr Davis

Seconded by Cllr Roberts

‘That the minutes of the Boughton Fen Committee meeting held on Friday, 6th March 2015 (pages 1 to 4) be accepted as a true and accurate record with the following addition:

‘Item 11 Winter work – Reedcutting, scrub clearance, seats, boardwalks etc, Page 2, add 11.5 ‘Boardwalk extension unable to do in summer months.’

All members in favour.

4. Matters arising/action list from meeting of 06/03/15

There were no matters arising.

The action list was updated (appendix 1).

Action 199 – The need to become more active with the website was agreed. Members discussed ideas to make the website more user-friendly; it could be used to promote birds seen on the fen, the site could be more educational. Agreed to meet and have a brainstorm and invite Kevin Fisher who manages the website on behalf of the committee.

5. Financial report

Angela Faherty explained that there have been no movements on the accounts since the year end 31st March 2015 except for bank interest income of 56p.



6. Budget – 2015/2016

The Chairman took members through the budget for 2015/2016 (appendix 2):

Income

- The HLS agreement income was understood to be a full year's payment.
- The VAT reclaim figure has been updated and was actually £2200 (rounded to the nearest £100). The figures will be updated to reflect this.
- The Hawk & Owl Trust have been chased but have not yet sent an invoice. The £300 will therefore remain as a liability.

Expenditure

- There was a question regarding HLS expenditure – if the stated works came in under the expected costs, could the surplus be ploughed back into the fen for other jobs? The Chairman explained that the committee can only use the money for specific works as stated in the HLS agreement.

The budget will be updated throughout the year. Members agreed that they need to keep a close eye on the budget, utilise money as much as possible as laid down in funding agreements, but also keep a contingency for unexpected expenditure.

7. Summer work

The Chairman advised the committee that the HLS agreement is under review. There is mention of grazing the site, but this is not practical on Boughton Fen. We need to move away from grazing towards cutting. A permit will be required for this from Natural England if the HLS is not revised by the time the work is carried out in July/August 2015.

The Chairman was asked if a work programme will be drawn up for summer and winter work. The Chairman and Cllr Cooper agreed to form a working party to prepare a report for the committee's approval. They need to meet with Natural England and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust to obtain their advice about grass cutting – length of grass, what suits the site etc. The Chairman will invite all members to the meeting and will send an email with possible dates. It was agreed that the work programme should also clarify what works are forbidden on the fen.

8. Winter work

See above.

9. Village centre fees

Proposed by Angela Faherty

Seconded by Cllr Roberts

'That the Boughton Fen Committee agrees to a payment of £30 per year to the Parochial Church Council for use of All Saints Church, Boughton for meetings.'

All in favour.



10. Fen Visits - education

There was a discussion about ways that the fen can be better utilised to provide educational visits for children and adults. Ideas and comments included:

- We don't see many young people on the fen, apart from visits by Paul Smith with the scouts.
- How can we encourage more kids?
- Paul Smith agreed that he will try to take additional local scout groups to the fen. Members of the Boughton Fen Committee could act as guides.
- Schools should be considered, but there are hoops to jump through, e.g. the trip must fit in with the syllabus.
- Paul Smith agreed to be an educational point of contact for the Boughton Fen Committee.
- A simple information pack could be produced including a map and instructions about leaving the fen tidy etc.

Cllr Andy Beeston had attended the meeting as a member of the public and gave the following report:

'The Boughton Playground Action Group are seeking funds to eventually refurbish the play area. One of the criteria for such funding requires us to show what extra benefits, if any, can be gained from their investment. This has lead our thoughts to promoting a "Boughton Experience".'

This experience for families would include appreciating all the benefits from the Green/Pond, the Play area and the Fen, i.e., a family day out with a picnic by the pond.

The aim would be to provide suitable promotional features for the Fen so that families using the village green and play areas could easily include a visit to the Fen as a result of the information displayed on the green or playground.

The extra features might include extra picnic tables, one for adults and one for young children, with appropriate information within the table tops promoting the Fen, e.g. what you could see and where, a map with walking distances and approximate times of walks etc. Possibly a vertical play station depicting wild life on the fen for children to use and learn from.

Additionally extra signage to direct families into the Fen could be erected at all inlet / outlet areas within the Fen, possibly 8 in total. Also low level information boards for children to view near the existing display boards.

I would also propose an organised accompanied walk round the Fen during the summer period for Boughton village people, maybe during one evening, to show the work that has been carried out and relate the benefits of this work. This, hopefully, would gain some interested parties to help in the future and to spread the word about the Fen. I'm sure there are many parishioners who have yet to see the Fen.



In conclusion, the funding would provide these facilities to encourage all to enjoy and experience this valuable award winning environmental triple S I site and to appreciate the voluntary work that has taken place over the years.'

Cllr Beeston and Paul Smith agreed to work together on fen visits and education, discuss ideas and report back to the committee.

11. AOB

As Chairman of Boughton Parish Council, Cllr Roberts said that he would like to understand more about Natural England and the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's input into the fen and to satisfy himself that the council are doing everything correctly.

Meeting dates for the coming year 2015/2016

- Friday, 9th October 2015
- Friday, 11th December 2015
- Friday, 18th March 2016

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.



Appendix 1

ACTION LIST STATUS BY BFC MEMBER (EXCLUDING PAST COMPLETED ITEMS)

ALL

199	All	Put forward ideas for website content	12.02.14	31.05.14	Ongoing
204	All	Report on action points prior to the following committee meeting	03.07.14	Immediate	Complete

DAVID COOPER

177	(+ AF)	Source Oak for plaque	25.01.13	Asap	Ongoing
218??	(+ID)	Produce Boughton Fen health and safety booklet	06.06.15	Asap	New
219 ??	(+ MP)	Report to committee re. work programme 2015/2016	05.06.15	Asap	New

IAN DAVIS

218??	(+DC)	Produce Boughton Fen health and safety booklet	06.06.15	Asap	New
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ANGELA FAHERTY

177	(+ DC)	Source Oak for plaque	25.01.13	Asap	Ongoing
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MARK POGMORE

219 ??	(+ DC)	Report to committee re. work programme 2015/2016	05.06.15	Asap	New
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PAUL SMITH

No current actions.