

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD: 6th Sept 2019 AT 6:30PM

VENUE: ALL SAINTS, BOUGHTON

Present: The Chairman Sue Pogmore
 Members Paul Smith
 Andrew Faherty
 Angela Faherty
 David Cooper
 Neil Matthew (Chair Boughton PC)

1 Apologies for absence

Mike Inder – Clerk to Boughton PC

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meetings of 5th July 2019

A correction was made to 6a which should have read £2152.94

Proposed by Paul Smith Seconded by Andrew Faherty

All members in favour.

4 Matters arising/actions from meeting of 30th November 2018

The action list was reviewed and updated (Appendix 1).

See Health and safety item

Paul is hoping to be able to get a work colleagues working party together from Plant Health in early November

With regard to the ash trees, Paul has been unable to take samples as yet due to pressure of work. In the meantime, Sue has had a visit from a representative of UK Power Networks regarding checking their power lines and telegraph poles. They may need to remove some branches from the trees in question as they are very close to the lines, and possibly around the perimeter of Lower Fen, where some of our trees are encroaching on the power lines situated on Chapman's adjacent land. UKPN will liaise with NE about this, and will not make any start to this work without our knowledge and NE approval

5 Countryside Stewardship Application

Emma Tovell and Diane Monsey visited as promised on 30th July, and walked around with Sue, Angela and Stephen Eyles who kindly gave up his own time to ensure he was fully au fait with the requirements of the new agreement, as it is now heavily biased towards the cutting regime for both grass and reed. He had some suggestions to make regarding the area cleared last winter on Lower Fen, and the NE officers were very interested in his ideas. They have subsequently investigated this and written with detailed recommendations as to how to deal with it as it requires a MAT form to be approved to temporarily amend the agreement.

Sue will process this as soon as possible as the approval has to be routed now through the RPA. They had also prepared a condensed chart showing the cutting regime, which has been circulated to all concerned, making our understanding of the agreement much simpler.

They have made various other recommendations regarding scrub control and cutting around the common meadow rue.

We have also had three visits from Sharon Hearle from Butterfly Conservation – Angela and Sue were able to join her twice, and Stephen spent time with her on the other occasion when she also had the County Moth Recorder with her. She was very encouraged by the quantity and quality of the Common Meadow Rue, and although no caterpillars were found, she felt it was quite possible that they were present. Our understanding of how to manage the plant is much improved, and she also had several constructive suggestions to make. Natural England were also very pleased about this

6 Current Situation with RPA

Sue explained that she had been in contact with the RPA and had managed to get Mark removed from the list of persons with permission to contact the RPA. For some considerable time there have been other names that should have been removed from this list, but had not been, despite formal requests to do so. The system has been completely altered and the person dealing with this for the RPA suddenly agreed to take the names off. None of them could act in any case, as they did not meet the current requirements, and have moved away etc. This means that Sue is now the only named person who can contact the RPA. The meeting agreed that steps should be taken to register Angela and Paul to this list. Sue will instigate this.

7 Financial report including banking arrangements

Angela reported that the balance at the end of July statement was £9435. Since then, the fen account has received the balance of £6.20 from Barclays, approx. £717 from the RPA, and two years VAT refund from the Parish Council amounting to £791. Three payments have been made as detailed below, leaving a balance of £10739.

It was noted again that although this seems a lot, there is no sign of the current year's CSA payments being likely to occur, and we will need this to ensure that this winter's work can be paid for.

12 Open Forum

Angela explained that whilst moving the fallen trees, some cartons had been found thrown into the trees near the roadside, which were full of small, empty glass pots. These to be removed and disposed of in the bottle bank.

Discussion took place as to whether Andrew should be reimbursed for a repair to his strimmer which he had used when the fen strimmer was unavailable. Dave suggested he get it looked at and see if a repair was viable.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting date is:
15th November 2019

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

Appendix 1

ACTION LIST STATUS BY BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEMBER (EXCLUDING PAST COMPLETED ITEMS)

ALL

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	All	To try to ensure that safety during working parties is maximised as discussed and report back for further review	08.12.17	Next meeting	Ongoing
2	All	Test long reach cutting equipment	06.09.19	31.12.19	New

DAVID COOPER (DC) & ANDREW FAHERTY (ACF)

1	DC & ACF	Review Health and Safety documents – complete review and create Accident Report sheet	25.09.17	Next meeting	Done
2	DC & ACF	Review procedure for burning reed	05.07.19	Dec 19	Ongoing
3	ACF	Lead Boardwalk repair work party	30.11.18	31.12.19	Ongoing

ANGELA FAHERTY (Ang F)

No current actions

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	Ang F	Update contact cards and add grid ref and <i>what3words</i>	05.07.19	06.09.19	Ongoing
2	Ang F	Close Barclays Accounts	05.07.19	15.08.19	Done

DAVID COOPER (DC)

1	DC	Arrange daytime volunteers to keep path maintained	15.06.18	As necessary	Ongoing
2	DC	Organise removal of cut logs from middle fen	30.11.18	asap	Ongoing
4	DC	Arrange work party tidy up path following S Eyles next cut	05.07.19	As necessary	Ongoing
5	DC	Contact WR Chapman re overhanging growth	05.07.19	At suitable opportunity	Ongoing

SUE POGMORE (SP)

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	SP	Contact Stephen Eyles re path cut	05.07.19	15.07.19	Ongoing
2	SP	Confirm meeting date with NE	05.07.19	15.07.19	Done
3	SP	Re-arrange signatories with Lloyds	05.07.19	31.07.19	Done
4	SP	Contact Stephen Eyles re Summer cut	05.07.19	15.08.19	Ongoing
5	SP	Circulate meeting dates	05.07.19	31.08.19	Done
6	SP	Add Paul & Angela to RPA permissions	06.09.19	31.10.19	New

PAUL SMITH (PS)

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	PS	Contact colleagues at Plant Health re a day's voluntary work	07.09.18	Next meeting	Ongoing
2	PS	Take samples from sickly Ash trees	05.07.19	06.09.19	Ongoing