

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

HELD: 7th September 2018 AT 6:30PM

VENUE: ALL SAINTS, BOUGHTON

Present:	The Chairman Members	Cllr Mark Pogmore Cllr David Cooper Paul Smith Andrew Faherty Angela Faherty Sue Pogmore (also taking minutes)
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1 Member of the Public arrived 6.50pm

The chairman explained to the committee that the Parish Council had agreed that Mrs S Pogmore should be co-opted on to the Boughton Fen Committee

1 Apologies for absence

None

With regard to the lack of apologies, Mark explained that following the previous meeting, he had looked again at the Fen TOR in the light of the changes recently made to the Parish Council policies. The TOR has been redrafted to reflect these changes, and some other alterations made to bring it into line with the PC TOR. The revised document was agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting, and Mark will circulate the new TOR to the Fen Committee asap.

2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meetings of 15th June 2018

Proposed by Paul Smith


Seconded by David Cooper

All members in favour.

4 Matters arising/actions from meeting of 15th June 2018

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

DC reported that the wildlife walk was so hot and flysome that it was impossible to work. Steven Eyles has done a cut on Wednesday this week and has let us know that he accidentally caught the seat that was a bit rickety near the big sign, and it has collapsed with legs totally rotten. It now needs replacing

 30/11/18

5 New Stewardship Application

Mark updated everyone on the situation so far – that all paperwork has been submitted as required, and have been approved. Confirmation of the final negotiations arrived in the post this week. If everything goes through without any problems, or changes, we should receive £5912.16 pa. This is not yet definite, and could change.

The work that must be carried out is much more clearly defined in the proposed agreement. Targets must be achieved unless the weather is totally adverse. Target species are to be observed (and recorded). We will be doing much less scrub clearance, but will need to maintain the levels that we have.

Paul asked that thanks to Mark & Sue for all their work on this be recorded.

6 Financial report including banking arrangements

Angela reported as follows: Money has come in from the RPA. Cheques have been sent out to Steven Eyles, Andrew Faherty, and the Church (use of room)

7 Budget – 2017/2018

Mark is still unable to produce a budget until he knows how much is definitely coming in through the new agreement, and how much is still to come from the previous one, as payments are well behind, and have not arrived in recognisable amounts. The RPA cannot offer any help as to how these figures have been arrived at.

8 Health and Safety

Angela has made up the laminated contact cards to go in the safety box.

9 Future funding and management of the fen

Due to the heavy time commitment the Countryside Stewardship has required, there has been no opportunity to look into this further. More work to be done as time permits

10 Summer Work

Steven Eyles will do the summer/autumn grass cut in line with the new specification, and results will be monitored. Arrangements were made to have Paul Coultlen to help with clearing brambles on the ride into Highland Fen, and a donation to the church be made by way of 'payment'

Post meeting Note: A small working party was organised before this took place, and the brambles cut back without the assistance of mechanised equipment. This was fortunate, as Mr Coultlen sustained a serious injury around the same time, and is out of action for the foreseeable future.

MP 20/11/18

11 Autumn/Winter Work

Work is to start in October, targeting regrowth in Highland Fen before the area becomes waterlogged as a main priority. Also, the growth around the existing weir needs cleaning up/trimming back to make it accessible.

Mark will circulate some proposed dates for working parties over the coming months.

A working party was planned for 16th September to follow up on Steven's path cut – to strim around seats, signs and weir, and clear overhanging growth on the path.

Other work which will need doing as the season goes on includes remeshing some parts of the board walk, and a plank on Middle Fen is showing signs of rot, so needs to be replaced.

Also the damaged seat needs to be removed from seat and a replacement constructed.

Contact to be made with contractor (Karl Charters) to burn, chip etc any debris from last year whilst it is dry and accessible. If possible, some firewood may be removed from the cut logs on the fen. It may also be possible to clear some areas of scrub still under the old agreement which is still current and in payment.

Arrangements to be made nearer the time for reed cutting, and generally to maintain the path

12 Open Forum

No other business

Date of next meeting

Next meeting date is:
30th November 2018

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The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

MF
30/11/18

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

No current actions.

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	Ongoing
2	DC & ACF	Check stock of timber in Geoff's barn to see if we still have any remaining boards. If not, liaise with Mark to order new	07.09.18	asap	New

ANGELA FAHERTY (Ang F)

No current actions

DAVID COOPER (DC)

1	DC	Arrange daytime volunteers to keep path maintained	15.06.18	As necessary	Ongoing
2	DC	Dave to purchase work trousers etc	15.06.18	Next meeting	Ongoing
3	DC	Arrange work party for 16/09/18 to tidy up path following S Eyles Cut	07.09.18	16/09/18	New

WF 30/11/18

1.

MARK POGMORE (MP)

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	MP	Contact management groups of similar projects to make enquiries regarding pros & cons of forming an organisation of this type	08.12.17	Next meeting	Ongoing
2	MP	Arrange Summer Cut with SE (need to monitor progress)	15.06. 18	Next meeting	Done/Ongoing
3	MP	Continue with application for Countryside Stewardship			Ongoing
4	MP	Circulate dates for working parties	07.09.18	asap	New
5	MP	Contact Karl Charters to arrange Autumn Work	07.09.18	Next meeting	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	New
2	PS	Take a look at sickly Ash trees	15.06.18	asap	Ongoing

MP 30/11/18