



minutes

**Draft Meeting Minutes of the
Boughton Fen Committee
Date: 8th July 2008
Location: 'Winward', Boughton**

1 Present

Mark Pogmore (MP) – Chair
Frank Reid (FR)
Angela Faherty (AF)
Allan Hale (AH)
Kevin Fisher (KF)
David Cooper (DC)

2 Apologies

2.1 None

3 Matters Arising/Action List from Meeting of 30th April 2008

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

4 Publication of Minutes

- 4.1 It was agreed that all future Minutes will be produced as draft and be agreed by the BFC and signed off 'as a true record' by the Chairman at the subsequent Committee Meeting.
- 4.2 Copies of draft and agreed Minutes to be forwarded to the Parish Council (PC). Agreed Minutes to be archived by the PC in accordance with recognised practice.
- 4.3 The BFC witnessed the Chairman signing the previous Minutes, these will be forwarded to the PC.

Action 61: MP to forward the signed Minutes from previous meetings to the PC.

- 4.4 Draft Minutes to be uploaded to website, replaced by agreed Minutes as above.



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5 Fund Raising/Events

- 5.1 Dawn Chorus raised £159.20. Kind thanks to AH for undertaking the talk and walk.
- 5.2 'Boughton Fen Through the Seasons' presentation by AH/BFC on 18th October. Tickets £5 adults, £3 children with nibbles/soft drink refreshments. Start time 7:30pm. AH requires access to church at 7:00pm.

Action 62: AF to arrange access to church and heating if necessary

Action 63: AF to undertake Risk Assessment, KJF to review if required

Action 64: AF to pursue raffle with Peter Agate, BFC to try and donate some prizes

- 5.3 Other funding possibilities, nature quiz?

Action 65: AH to look at developing a quiz.

- 5.4 Alan Livingstone/AH to do a dragon fly event on The Fen about this time next year.

Action 66: AH to pursue this opportunity.

6 ELS/HLS Agreement

- 6.1 FEP

- 6.1.1 Still planned for 1st August entry into the ELS/HLS agreement.

- 6.2 Management Plan

- 6.2.1 On-hold, still awaiting additional information from Natural England

- 6.3 Common Land Access/Grazing

- 6.3.1 NE require a declaration to be signed stating that due diligence has been made by the BFC in the notification of any works/activities on The Fen that may affect grazing rights of others. This form will be signed by MP as representative of Boughton Parish Council and delegated Chairman of the BFC.

To date we have had a village open meeting, published information in Group4 News, on the website and we also publish the BFC minutes. Additionally, MP has put a notice into the public domain (G4N, website and village notice board) regarding Grazing Rights to give the Parishioners of Boughton ample opportunity to express an interest in any Grazing Rights still in existence. To date no response has been received, however the BFC will work with anyone with active grazing rights to ensure a mutually agreeable outcome.



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6.3.2 Cattle will not be grazed on The Fen. Realistic alternatives are sheep and/or ponies. A number of options are available for sourcing these animals and further discussions/avenues are to be pursued.

Action 67: MP to pursue options regarding sheep. Temporary fencing will be required and it is thought that Natural England will not fund this.

6.4 Financial arrangements

6.4.1 The Boughton Parish Council has agreed to release to the BFC the sum of £350 per year spread over two years. This is in recognition of the £100 per annum contribution from Natural England as part of the 1999 SSSI agreement.

7 Bank Accounts

7.1.1 AF has pursued the opening of BFC accounts. For account purposes we have to show that we are a sub-committee of the Boughton Parish Council.

7.1.2 **Angela will send me some words to be minuted here!!!!**

7.1.3 Two Fen Committee accounts to be established, a Business Account and a Current Account. These will require the signatures of two PC members to draw funds from.

7.1.4 For accounting purposes, it was proposed and unanimously agreed that we will continue to be called the Boughton Fen Committee.

8 Contractor Scrub Clearance

8.1 AH reports that an Environmental Agency (EA) representative suggests that a spray ('round-up' or similar) be applied immediately to the area cleared of scrub earlier in the year.

Action 68: MP to contact original contractors and ask them to return to apply appropriate spray.

8.2 Further scrub clearance required early September. BFC agreed that the original contractor be requested to quote for this additional work as he provided such good value and quality of work earlier in the year.

Action 69: MP to request quote for this additional work.



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9 Working Parties

- 9.1 BFC to visit The Fen on 22nd July as a group and determine scope of work for future large and small working parties. Timings to be scheduled as appropriate.
- 9.2 AH reports that there is a considerable growth of willow on Middle Fen. A working party will be required to address this in the very near future.
- 9.3 Future large parties
 - 9.3.1 To be arranged as appropriate
- 9.4 Future small parties
 - 9.4.1 To be arranged as appropriate

10 Interested Groups and Individuals

- 10.1 All interested groups and individuals are welcome to help with The Fen working parties and will be communicated to/invited as appropriate.
- 10.2 Alan Livingstone/Ian Fox are actively looking at dragon flies and moths etc., this has been on a weekly basis.
- 10.3 The EA has been on The Fen looking at, and evaluating the quality. Due to the high abundance of nettles the EA believe that the soil is high in phosphates.
- 10.4 The EA are going to cut along Stringside Drain following discussion with Gerald Allison of the Internal Drainage Board.
- 10.5 Norfolk Flora Group are looking at the flora on The Fen
- 10.6 MP reports that Redgrave and Lopham Fen might be able to provide support and advice to the work the BFC are doing.
- 10.7 The committee are encouraging groups to provide any output/records of findings

11 Other Sources of Funding

- 11.1 Charitable Status – Not of interest to the BFC at the moment.

12 Neighbours

- 12.1 Nothing specific to report.

13 Visits to Similar Areas

- 13.1 Nothing specific to report.



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14 AOB

14.1 Additional hedging is required along the western boundary of Highland Fen.

Action 70: AH to identify potential sources, availability and cost.

14.2 It is close to bird ringing time on The Fen. AH might be ringing this Thursday/Friday depending on weather and partner availability. An invite is extended to the BFC to witness and assist.

14.3 The possibility of signs on The Fen was explored. Long term a 'visitor' information sign on Upper Fen with seating is an aspiration. Short term some signs along the perimeters would prove useful in helping to stop fly-tipping. Norfolk Rural Community Council could prove a possible source of funding.

14.4 AH has done some photography for the Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) and he is visiting their HQ soon. AH asked whether he could ask anything of the NWT whilst he has this opportunity of being in their presence. No ideas forthcoming but some social networking could prove fruitful for the future.

15 Next Meeting

15.1 The next meeting date is 'To Be Confirmed'.

Action 71: MP to propose dates by e:mail.