



Cllr Pogmore – Two young villagers have become involved in fen related activities, 1 who will become involved in working parties as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award, and a sixth former who is doing a project on wetlands.

5. Financial report

Angela Faherty explained that we have cash in the bank (£7691.87) see appendix 2)

6. Signatories

Action is with Cllr Roberts to contact Barclays Bank to get himself on the list and check who is currently on the list of signatories.

7. Budget – 2015/2016

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

This will need further review once we get to the stage of appointing contractors for winter work.

Expenditure

- Angela Faherty noted that there has been spend on the website which is not yet shown in the accounts.

8. Natural England and NWT

NWT have a new officer who has visited the site. She said we may be entitled to a £500 grant for scrub clearance but confirmation is still awaited. She has also done a plant survey but we have not yet received a copy.

Norman Sills has completed 39 no. 10m sq. quadrant vegetation surveys across the fen. Cllr Pogmore to send Norman a letter of thanks for his work.

Natural England's Diane Monsey appears to be opposed to us doing any bank works. The EA have a lot of funding for the works to go ahead, and this is the last time we are likely to get any funding from EA. James from the EA is going to submit a Permit to Work application for the bank works to prompt some sort of response. If no response is forthcoming within 2 weeks Cllr Roberts has suggested that we escalate this to NE as a failure to respond within a reasonable timescale. This was agreed by the committee. Cllr Pogmore proposed that Cllr Roberts and Cllr Pogmore jointly draft a letter.

9. Winter work and working parties

The Chairman advised the committee that the he has approached three contractors to tender. All three are interested and Cllr Pogmore is awaiting responses. Until we receive a response



from NE on the bank works we should concentrate on scrub clearance as the main priority, supported by our own working parties. The first of these will be 17th October 9.30am. Other proposed dates Sat 14th Nov and Sun 6th Dec. both starting at 9.30 am. Paul Smith to investigate civil service volunteering scheme which might produce some additional labour for specifically identified work. Angela Faherty suggested we open the church for lunchtime refreshments.

Angela Faherty & Cllr Agate to combine their village email lists with a view to circulating working parties dates to villagers.

10. Update on shooting

Cllr Roberts happened upon an employee of the shoot adjacent to the fen discussed the shooting issue. This got back to the shoot owner who came to speak with the former chairman & Cllr Roberts and they came across as responsible neighbours. They made it clear they had not been given any permission to shoot on the fen and claimed they only entered to fen for access or to retrieve birds shot outside the fen perimeter.

In line with the shooting code of practice Cllr Roberts to revisit the shoot to let them know that we will not give permission for them to send dogs onto the fen to retrieve birds. This is in line with our signage stating dogs must be kept on a lead.

11. Website

Cllr Pogmore requested we have a separate session to discuss the website. Cllr Pogmore to contact Kevin to arrange a meeting perhaps early in the new year when Kevin can run through things with us and we can make our suggestions for possible changes. Agreed venue All Saints Church.

Cllr Roberts to liaise with Carole to get dates of meeting and minutes posted on the website for both Parish Council and Fen Committee meetings.

12. Stringside drain

Cllr Roberts concerned about the build-up of reeds and suggested that we contact the EA about clearing some of the reeds. Cllr Pogmore & Paul Smith feel that this is not a fen issue. Cllr Pogmore believe that the Stringside Drainage Board should be raising this with the EA as it affects their stretch of the drain. It was on the EA's programme for last year but they were unable to do the works due to the condition of the banks. Apparently it is again in the EA's programme for this year. Cllr Roberts to make an informal approach to the chairman of the internal drainage board to see if the works can be progressed.

Concerns were raised about the encroaching reeds along the fenside of the drain which has detracted from the walk between the two bridges.

Peter Agate suggested investigating the costs of cutting 1,2,3,4,5 times per year to control the reeds and open up the bank view.



13. Off fen wayfinding

There was a discussion concerning the possibility of further signage. Peter Agate to report back with costs (see note in previous minutes - Andy Beeston intended to include funding for this in his playground bid)

14. AOB

Meeting closed 21.13hrs