



minutes

**Meeting Minutes of the
Boughton Fen Committee
Date: 19th August 2009
Location: 'The Hawthorns', 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 29th April 2009

- 3.1 BFC reviewed action list, updates appended to these minutes.
- 3.2 Previous Action 94 amended to '£30 per dipwell (£150 total)'

4 Budgets and Financial Report

- 4.1 AF tabled latest Accounts Report. Accounts have been audited by Tim Madgwick.
- 4.2 AH and MP have looked at Capital Works grants available from our ESA and proposed budget to BFC. Claim is to be submitted for scrub clearance in Highland Fen, bird boxes and base payment, totalling £809. BFC in agreement with proposed claim.

5 Programme of Works – September to December 2009

5.1 Re-Growth

- 5.1.1 Disappointing that bits we have missed with round-up are now rampantly growing and helps cancel out our previous good work. AH/FR to go down Fen with round-up to target problem areas on 20/08/09.

Action 108: AH/FR to target re-growth areas with round-up



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5.1.2 Other expertise to be sought to how best deal with this type of problem.

Action 109: FR to contact Gerald Alison of IDB and ask advice.

5.2 Scrub Removal

5.2.1 AH has been to Fen to get an idea of scope of Contractor works and has identified 8 'project' areas. This will give something for the Contractors to work with and quote against. There is also a need to fell the 4 big willows on Middle Fen.

Action 110: AH to pursue Contractors to get formal quotes and advise BFC on progress.

5.2.2 Discussion ensued on trees from Middle Fen overhanging highway.

Action 111: FR to contact Bill Chapman to see whether he would be able to trim the overhang.

5.3 Reed Cutting

5.3.1 AH has been in discussion with reed cutters but problem of reed removal still remains an issue and this is probably best tackled with a 'Working Party'. Area to be cut has been identified by AH. MP advises volunteer group BTCV, based in Norwich, who will provide a 'team of 12' for £380+VAT per day. BFC in agreement that it is best to use knowledgeable volunteers for first cut and ask whether they would work with a BFC Working Party.

Action 112: AH to obtain quote for reed cutting before we arrange a working party.

Action 113: MP to invite BTCV representative to look at site and provide advice.

5.4 Common Lands Act Section 38 – Fence Line

5.4.1 MP completing paperwork for application to erect fencing.

5.4.2 Discussion ensued on area to be fenced. Concern raised regarding ensuring public accessibility and not to be seen as excluding public to fenced area. BFC agreed on need for care, consideration and consultation.

Action 114: All to mark-out fence-line with stakes on November 8th. Meet at 13:00 and also walk circular route afterwards.

Action 115: AF to investigate sourcing stakes for marking out

Action 116: AH/MP to talk to Bill Chapman regarding fence-line.



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5.5 Predator Control

5.5.1 Fox on the loose!

5.5.2 Mink – AH has tried trapping but no success. EA will not pay for mink control but have advised of Contractor. Norfolk Wildlife Trust may be able to assist.

Action 117: AH to investigate whether NWT would be able to assist with mink trapping..

6 Review of Progress to Date

6.1 Many subjects/items have been covered already. FR posed three questions:

- a) Are we maintaining momentum? Some concern that we appear to not do too much during the summer months due to Fen access. It was agreed that we should informally meet every other month to discuss action plans/items to be targeted etc. to help maintain focus. These gatherings would not be formally minuted but just used as an aid to progress
- b) Are we getting enough out of our Contractors? It was stated that the first year or two had been an invaluable learning exercise and that had we gone at a greater pace more mistakes and retrospective work may have resulted. However, it was also apparent that the Contractors should undertake much more work on our behalf and this view was supported in AH's 8 'target' areas on Middle Fen for late 2009/2010. It was stated that we must also ensure that our existing work/project areas are completed before we undertake too much additional work.
- c) How to ensure 'welcoming' public access. This is seen to be a bit of a problem area and difficult to know how to resolve. Despite numerous articles in G4N, public consultation, the website, annual newsletter and Parish Council meetings there are still persons who are unsure as to whether they can access The Fen. It is hoped that with the addition of the circular walk, signage and further publications that this view will subside over a short period of time

7 AOB

7.1 BFC Newsletter – It was agreed that this was a success last year and that we should produce one for 2009.

Action 118: AF/KF to think about content and production of 2009 Newsletter with a November issue date.



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7.2 NWT Wildlife Surveying Toolkit – AF handed out information on this subject. The basic aim of the project is to further public involvement in the understanding and conservation of Norfolk’s natural heritage. The work contained within our Management Plan on the recording of Flora and Fauna on The Fen could be used by NWT as a Case Study to help disseminate information to the wider public. BFC agreed that we would like to be involved as a Case Study.

Action 119: AF to pursue Wildlife Surveying Kit Case Study with NWT.

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ACTION LIST STATUS

No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
7	MP	to progress resolution of the council drain problem	24/10/07	5/12/07	On-Going –NE continue to pursue on our behalf. MP to liaise with NE as appropriate
65	AH	to look at developing a quiz as a future fund raising event	08/07/08	31/07/08	On-going
67	MP	to pursue options regarding sheep grazing on The Fen	08/07/08	31/08/08	On-hold until fencing issue resolved
83	KF	to upload Management Plan to the website	05/11/08	30/11/08	Complete – No comments received from NE agreed by BFC to upload
85	MP	to pursue the requirement for a felling licence with NE	05/11/08	30/11/08	On-going – MP has contacted Forestry Commission and awaits formal response
87	All	to view the proposed route for creating a circular walk to assess viability	05/11/08	15/12/08	On-going – Aspiration to have a circular route by early 2010. Agreed to walk proposed route 8 th November
92	MP	MP to arrange meeting with the OSS and invite BFC members as appropriate.	11/02/09	28/02/09	Complete – See Action 104
95	FR	to contact the IDB to discuss arrangements for keeping vegetation down on stringside	11/02/09	28/02/09	On-going – EA do the cutting, not IDB. Alan Daniels to be invited to next BFC meeting

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No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
		Drain throughout the year			to discuss requirements/budget.
97	AH	to contact Ian Levitt regarding the ESA reference and bird box type.	29/04/09	30/05/09	Complete – Advice received
98	AH	AH to determine what grants can be claimed from the ESA for works to date.	29/04/09	30/05/09	Complete – MP/AH have determined CAPEX items to be claimed (see Minutes)
99	FR/KF	to ensure BBQ is operational prior to event and move to location evening before	29/04/09	12/05/09	Complete
100	All	to take large flasks of water to Fen for making refreshments	29/04/09	12/05/09	Complete
101	AF	to purchase food in advance.	29/04/09	12/05/09	Complete
102	All	to agree the scope of contractor works for 2009/2010	29/04/09	30/06/09	On-going – AH proposed scope of works during meeting, refer to Minutes 5.2
103	AH	to discuss scale of problem of reed debris removal.	29/04/09	30/06/09	On-going – refer to Minutes 5.3
104	MP	to arrange meeting with ‘Open Spaces’ to discuss issue of fencing common land (other BFC members to be ‘invited’)	29/04/09	30/05/09	Complete - MP held meeting with OSS. Formal response to our proposals re:fencing received and attached to these Minutes
105	MP	to obtain contractor quotes for gate installation	29/04/09	30/05/09	On-going – No quotation sought, MP advised we would be unlawfully in breach of the Commons Land Act 2006, Section 38



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No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
					and need to wait until submission of formal application to fence grazing area
106	KF	to investigate Electricity Board Way Leave payments	29/04/09	30/06/09	Complete – Income already received by Boughton Parish Council, PC meeting in August agreed that this income to remain with PC and not BFC
107	AH	to purchase 'Roundup Probiactive'	29/04/09	30/05/09	Complete
108	AH/FR	to go down Fen and target problem areas of re-growth.	19/08/09	20/08/09	New
109	FR	to contact Gerald Alison of IDB and ask advice on dealing with re-growth	19/08/09	30/09/09	New
110	AH	to pursue Contractors to get formal quotes for scrub removal and to advise BFC on progress.	19/08/09	30/09/09	New
111	FR	to contact Bill Chapman to see whether he would be able to trim the overhang at the 'Y' junction by Middle and Lower Fen	19/08/09	30/09/09	New
112	AH	to obtain quote for cutting before we arrange a working party.	19/08/09	30/09/09	New
113	MP	to invite BTCV representative to look at site and provide	19/08/09	30/09/09	New

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No:	Name	Action description	Date of Action	To be completed by	Comments
		advice for reed removal / clearance			
114	ALL	to mark-out fence-line with stakes on November 8 th . Meet at 13:00 and also walk circular route afterwards.	19/08/09	08/11/09	New
115	AF	to investigate sourcing stakes for marking out.	19/08/09	08/11/09	New
116	AH/MP	to talk to Bill Chapman regarding proposed fence-line.	19/08/09	08/11/09	New
117	AH	to investigate whether NWT would be able to assist with mink trapping.	19/08/09	30/09/09	New
118	AF/KF	to think about content and production of 2009 Newsletter with a November issue date.	19/08/09	30/10/09	New
119	AF	to pursue Wildlife Surveying Kit Case Study with NWT	19/08/09	30/09/09	New

minutes



Chairman: RODNEY LEAGUE, Vice-Chairman: JUDITH GIBSON, General Secretary: KATE ASHBROOK

Mr M Pogmore
The Bungalow
Chapel Road
Boughton
King's Lynn
Norfolk
PE33 9AG

1 July 2009

Dear Mr Pogmore

Proposals for Boughton Fen Common

Ian Witham has reported to me his meeting with you to discuss the future of this common.

I am happy to go along with his view on this, that although we would prefer there to be no fencing at all, we would probably be prepared not to object to your fencing proposal, which is the smaller area not the whole of the north-west section as originally proposed by Natural England. We would want the exact line of the fencing to be carefully chosen to ensure it is as unobtrusive as possible and for there to be ample points for the public to gain access to the site. In addition, we would want the application to be limited for a period of, say, ten years so that the matter can be reviewed at the end of that period to see whether it has been successful.

We shall of course give our formal comments when you submit your proposal to the Planning Inspectorate, but if you would like any further information from us at this stage do please get in touch.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Ashbrook".

Kate Ashbrook
General Secretary