

# minutes

**Meeting Minutes of the  
Boughton Fen Sub-Committee  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Location: 'Winward', Boughton**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 This was the inaugural meeting of the Boughton Fen Sub-Committee (BFSC).
- 1.2 The BFSC works under the delegated authority of the Boughton Parish Council and has been formed with the primary objective of managing all activities associated with Boughton Fen.
- 1.3 Mark Pogmore, in his role of Parish Councillor, has been assigned 'custodian' of Boughton Fen and heads the BFSC.
- 1.4 Boughton Fen is a nominated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) site but is unfortunately in decline. We are advised by experts that without urgent management action the scrubland on the Fen will quickly take over and that the site will become a wooded area. The BFSC will work with the Boughton Parish Council, the residents of Boughton and Natural England to ensure that all work undertaken is in accordance with a recognised and approved Management Plan to help ensure the safeguarding of Boughton Fen and its' SSSI status for future generations.

## **2 Present**

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

## **3 Apologies**

None

## **4 Introduction**

- 4.1 MP welcomed those present and provided an overview of the remit of the BFSC.

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## 5 Taking of Minutes

- 5.1 KF agreed to take the minutes. It was agreed by all that these would be brief and mainly consist of action points.

## 6 Funding/Financial Matters/Land Registry

- 6.1 The existing Wildlife Enhancement Scheme? (WES) Agreement with Natural England terminated in July 2007. This scheme provided a grant of £100 per annum to Boughton Parish Council to help support any works on Boughton Fen and is thought to have been in existence since 1999.

AF postulated whether this 'banked funding' could be used to fund initial work.

- 6.2 A letter had been received from Natural England stating that the existing WES agreement would not be renewed and that to secure any future funding Boughton Fen would have to be put into a "Higher Level Stewardship Management Scheme" (HLSMS). To be eligible for this the land must be registered on the Rural Land Register (RLR). Boughton Fen is registered under the 1965 Commons Registration Act but BFSC were unsure whether this was adequate. A submission to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) is to be made by Spring 2008.

**Action 1:** KF to contact the Rural Land Agency to determine if the land is registered on the RLR.

- 6.3 Contact had been made with Mr Tony Hargreaves of Brown & Co., Property and Business Consultants, Bury St. Edmunds, to help understand what funding may be available under a HLSMS. Brown & Co. have offered to guide the BFSC through the application process at a cost of £1000-£1500, of which £550 will be funded by Natural England on completion of a 'pre-FEP consultation'.

**Action 2:** MP to contact Brown & Co. and request a breakdown of their proposed 'guidance' fee.

**Action 3:** AH to approach a known alternative to see whether they would be able to help BFSC through this process and at what cost.

## 7 Transfer of Named Individual Status (RPA & Natural England)

- 7.1 MP was advanced with his knowledge of the existing process and the existing contractual arrangements. The rest of the committee need 'bringing up to speed' to help understand the process.

**Action 4:** MP to forward his folder containing all current information to the rest of the BFSC. Committee members to copy items of relevance to themselves.

**Action 5:** AH to see if he can get the original SSSI information for BF from contacts at the Norwich Office.

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## 8 Management Plan

- 8.1 In order to progress with the work on Boughton Fen in a controlled and structured manner a detailed Management Plan is necessary. This will also be required to help secure any funding streams.

**Action 6:** AH to develop a draft Management Plan.

## 9 Useful Groups/Organisations

- 9.1 To help support the work on Boughton Fen, MP identified a number of organisations and individuals who would be useful contacts. These included RSPB (Norman Sills), Hawk and Owl Trust (Nigel Middleton), Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Andrina ?), King's Lynn Volunteer Group (John Loveless), Stringsides Internal Drainage Board (Geoff Proctor/Tam Payne).

## 10 Neighbours

- 10.1 Boughton Fen has a number of 'neighbours'. BFSC to ensure appropriate communication and information is provided to our 'neighbours'.

## 11 Council Drain

- 11.1 MP outlined the problems of the drain running from Boughton Fen under the road to Mr Chapman's land. This has long been a source of concern and irritation.

**Action 7:** MP to progress resolution of this long standing problem.

## 12 Visits to Similar Areas

- 12.1 BFSC agreed that it would be useful to visit one or two other Managed Areas such as Lakenheath Fen. AH stated that he would probably be able to help arrange 'behind the scenes access'.

**Action 8:** AH to pursue access to other Managed Areas.

## 13 AOB

- 13.1 AH kindly circulated a Boughton Fen report he had produced detailing the abundant wildlife seen throughout 2007.

- 13.2 BFSC were keen to start work early next year.

**Action 9:** MP to contact Natural England and discuss what works we would like to initially undertake (i.a.w. the Management Plan) and get their agreement in writing.

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13.3 Nigel Middleton had 'offered' to advise and assist in any process trying to secure funding streams.

13.4 It was noted that there was re-growth on the Poplars that had been felled earlier in the year.

**Action 10:** AH to source 'Round-Up' to help kill off the stumps.

13.5 MP stated that Robin Blackall had mentioned something about the 'Reeds Trust'!

**Action 11:** AH to discuss this further with Robin.

13.6 It was questioned whether the Parish Council insurance would cover work on the Fen.

**Action 12:** FR to check the PC insurance and level of coverage.

13.7 It was suggested that an article in G4N would prove useful and informative.

**Action 13:** MP to write an article for the next edition of G4N.

13.8 FR stated that David Cooper would like to join the BFSC. All agreed this was a good idea. It is also known that Robin Blackall has a great interest in Boughton Fen and could prove to be a useful consultant.

**Action 14:** FR to discuss further with David Cooper and extend an invite to the next meeting.

## 14 Next Meeting

14.1 All agreed on the importance of selecting a date for the next meeting to maintain impetus.

**Action 15:** MP to propose dates from 5<sup>th</sup> to mid December.