



minutes

**Meeting Minutes of the
Boughton Fen Committee
Date: 30th April 2008
Location: 'Winward', Boughton**

1 Present

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

2 Apologies

2.1 David Cooper (DC)

Note: Prior to commencement of the main Agenda discussion was held regarding arrangements for the Dawn Chorus Talk & Walk on Sunday 4th May. The outcome from this has not been minuted.

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

3.1 No specific matters arising.

3.2 BFC reviewed action list, updates appended to these minutes.

4 Publication of Minutes

4.1 BFC agreed to the public distribution of the Minutes, the action status will not be circulated.

Action 47: KF to publish meeting minutes to the Group4 News website (www.group4news.co.uk) and the village notice board. E:mail copies to be forwarded to the Parish Councillors.

4.2 BFC would like a specific Fen Committee section on the Group4 News website.

Action 48: KF to add section to website

5 ELS/HLS Agreement



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5.1 FEP

5.1.1 Work will commence on the Farm Environment Plan soon

5.2 Management Plan

5.2.1 AH has incorporated comments into the Management Plan and now requires additional information from Natural England

5.3 Common Land Access

5.3.1 Boughton Fen is registered to the Parish under the Commons Registration Act 1965, reference CL234.

5.3.2 MP tabled maps and information relating to the original registration and subsequent application for grazing rights

Action 49: KF to copy original documentation and circulate to BFC.

5.4 Grazing

5.4.1 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. To date we have had a village open meeting and published information in Group4 News and on the website. Additionally, we are to publish the BFC minutes and will place into the public domain a statement of our intent to invoke grazing. The BFC will work with anyone with active grazing rights to ensure a mutually agreeable outcome.

Action 50: MP to draft a statement and circulate to the BFC for review before subsequent publication. This is to indicate our intent to invoke grazing on The Fen and invite anyone with active grazing rights to declare their interest.

5.4.2 The proposed Stockholder for The Fen is not able to graze cattle anymore. 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.

5.5 Financial arrangements

5.5.1 The subject of the NE funding of £100 per year is to be raised at the Parish Council meeting (again) to determine if previously given funds can be transferred to the Fen Committee.

Action 51: MP to raise at the next Parish Council meeting in May



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5.5.2 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.

Action 52: AF to complete the paperwork to open the accounts

6 Health and Safety

6.1 Risk Assessment required for Dawn Chorus Walk and Talk.

Action 53: AF to perform a RA, KF to review and keep for future records.

7 Purchase of Strimmer etc.

7.1 The BFC are to purchase a strimmer/brush cutter. Discussion ensued on the appropriate tool.

Action 54: All to investigate suitable tool and decide on a solution. FR/AH to contact Lawn Boy to discuss.

8 Working Parties

Excellent use of persons to effect works. Nice sociable activity as a by-product!

8.1 Future large parties

8.1.1 Two in September/October

8.2 Future small parties

8.2.1 To be arranged as appropriate

Action 55: MP to arrange future large parties investigate the opportunity for phasing in with contractor works again.

9 Interested Groups and Individuals

9.1 All interested groups and individuals are welcome to help with The Fen working parties and will be communicated to/invited as appropriate.

9.2 Interested group to look at the Flora on the Fen,

Action 56: AH to continue discussion with Norfolk Floral Group to arrange.



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9.3 Another group are interested in dragon flies, moths etc. The committee welcome and encourage them.

9.4 The committee are encouraging groups to provide any output/records of findings

10 Other Sources of Funding

10.1 WREN – Waste Recycling Environmental N? could be a source.

11 Neighbours

11.1 Nothing specific to report.



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12 Visits to Similar Areas

12.1 Trip to Wicken Fen was informative and successful.

13 AOB

13.1 Fen Committee Logo – to be adopted for official correspondence.

13.2 Idea for Fen to be blessed upon 'opening'. All in agreement that this is a good idea and would probably be appropriate sometime next year. It would be appropriate if Robin Blackall would be able to undertake this.

Action 57: AF to keep this idea 'on the back-burner' for future.....

13.3 The grass cutting along Stringsides Drain on the Middle Fen has previously been performed by the Internal Drainage Board but for some reason was not done last year.

Action 58: FR to contact Geoff Proctor to determine whether there are any plans for the Drainage Board to do it this year.

If the response is negative then look to other solutions such as John Adcock or Paul Coulten.

Action 59: MP to contact John Adcock and, if the work is feasible, obtain a quote (only to be done if the response from Action 58 is negative)

14 Next Meeting

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

Action 60: MP to propose dates by e:mail.