

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**HELD: 30th November 2018 AT 6:30PM****VENUE: ALL SAINTS, BOUGHTON**

Present:	The Chairman	Cllr Mark Pogmore
	Members	Paul Smith
		Andrew Faherty
		Angela Faherty
		Sue Pogmore (also taking minutes)

1 Apologies for absence

David Cooper
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2 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the meetings of 7th September 2018

Proposed by Paul Smith

Seconded by Andrew Faherty

All members in favour.

4 Matters arising/actions from meeting of 7th September 2018

The action list was reviewed and updated (Appendix 1).

With regard to the timber stocks in Geoff's barn, DC had agreed to check on this. Mark would get in touch with him to see if he had been able to do this.

DC had obtained safety trousers from Lawnboy, and had organised the working party on 16.09.2018

Mark had amended the stewardship paperwork as requested by NE and was awaiting the final agreement.

Chapman's had successfully installed the outfall in good dry conditions at the end of October, and left the site in excellent order.

Karl Charters had been contacted and has already done some more scrub removal from Kingfisher Bridge and down the bank. Everything has been chipped and some logs left to be picked up – Mark will approach Dave about this.

SM
5/9/19

Paul has enquired about workplace volunteers, but due to the current political situation, and other working arrangements, this is difficult to organise at present. There may be a possibility towards the end of February, but this is very uncertain.

The Ash trees were discussed again – Paul will have a look in the spring as they are coming into leaf. There could be concerns over the power lines if the trees have actually died.

5 New Stewardship Application

Discussed in previous item

6 Financial report including banking arrangements

Balance as at 13.09.18 was £11457.72

Cheques have been made out to Stephen Eyles, Dave Cooper and W R Chapman leaving a balance of £9842.90

Karl Charter's invoice for chipping, cutting etc is expected to be in the region of £500.

7 Budget – 2017/2018

A budget still cannot be prepared until NE confirm Stewardship figures.

MP has met with Sam Brown from NWT, along with Stephen Eyles and Carl Charters. NWT have money to allocate from 'members funds' to sites that have public access. Sam has said that she would be allocating two awards of £475 each against grass cutting and scrub clearance on lower fen, and would be issuing two purchase orders

8 Health and Safety

Andrew said that the 4 boards on the boardwalk needed replacing urgently, and would like to do this on two consecutive days before Christmas if possible, with a group of people who have some aptitude for this type of work.

There is still part of the broken seat standing in Highland Fen, and this needs to be removed. The weather has exposed more glass in the area near to the cottages.

Another working party would be organised before Christmas to remove some of the exposed stumps, and the glass – Dec 9th, Paul to lead.

9 Future funding and management of the fen

Deferred due to lack of time

SMP
5/7/19

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10 Autumn/Winter Work and Working Parties

- a Scrub clearance in wet areas is largely done now, due to several successful work parties
- b Scrub clearance in drier areas can be looked at after Christmas
- c Contractor scrub clearance is ongoing with Carl Charters
- d Contractor reed cutting – Mark will talk to Stephen Eyles soon
 Work parties will be organised to clear reed after the cut
 Reed cut will hopefully be at the top end of middle fen near Otter Bridge going down
 Towards the cottages
- e Maintenance of walk – mainly done

Working party dates to be set for the New year.

11 EA Activity on the Fen

The EA have cut the river bank and cleared the drain without letting us know. The spoil has been placed correctly for the greater part of the length – on the opposite bank. However at the southern end of the bank (opposite the gardens), it has been dumped on the river bank on the fen side, creating a small bank of mud which will prevent the run off from the track when the rains come. The reed has been cut and ‘mulched’ over a large area, way beyond the EA’s ‘easement’. There are deep ruts and other damage caused by agricultural vehicles in several areas. Mark has been in touch with NE who are unhappy about this and will contact the EA regarding future procedures. The nature of this activity could jeopardise the fen Stewardship Agreement if there were to be an inspection. Boughton Fen are responsible, even if they had no knowledge of the activity.

Mark has also been in touch with the EA who have said they will return to site to rectify the problems, but have not been in touch since.

12 Open Forum

No other business

Date of next meeting

Next meeting date is:
 13th March 2019

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.55pm.

SM P
 5/2/19

Appendix 1

**ACTION LIST STATUS BY BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE
MEMBER (EXCLUDING PAST COMPLETED ITEMS)**

ALL

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	All	To try to ensure that safety during working parties is maximised as discussed and report back for further review	08.12.17	Next meeting	Ongoing

No current actions.

DAVID COOPER (DC) & ANDREW FAHERTY (ACF)

1	DC & ACF	Review Health and Safety documents – complete review and create Accident Report sheet	25.09.17	Next meeting	Ongoing
2	DC & ACF	Check stock of timber in Geoff's barn to see if we still have any remaining boards. If not, liaise with Mark to order new	07.09.18	asap	Ongoing
3	ACF	Lead Boardwalk repair work party	30.11.18	asap	New

ANGELA FAHERTY (Ang F)

No current actions

DAVID COOPER (DC)

1	DC	Arrange daytime volunteers to keep path maintained	15.06.18	As necessary	Ongoing
2	DC	Dave to purchase work trousers etc	15.06.18	Next meeting	Complete
3	DC	Organise removal of cut logs from middle fen	30.11.18	asap	New
4	DC	Arrange work party for 16/09/18 to tidy up path following S Eyles Cut	07.09.18	16/09/18	Complete

1.

MARK POGMORE (MP)

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	MP	Contact management groups of similar projects to make enquiries regarding pros & cons of forming an organisation of this type	08.12.17	Next meeting	Ongoing
2	MP	Arrange Summer Cut with SE (need to monitor progress)	15.06.18	Next meeting	Done/Ongoing
3	MP	Continue with application for Countryside Stewardship			Awaiting finalisation
4	MP	Circulate dates for working parties	30.11.18	asap	New
5	MP	Contact Karl Charters to arrange Autumn Work	07.09.18	Next meeting	Done
6	MP	Liaise with SE re reed cutting	30.11.18	asap	New

PAUL SMITH (PS)

Number	Group	Action	Date rec'd	Complete by	Status
1	PS	Contact colleagues at Plant Health re a day's voluntary work	07.09.18	Next meeting	Ongoing
2	PS	Take a look at sickly Ash trees	15.06.18	asap	Ongoing