

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

27 September 2024 at 6:00pm at All Saints Church, Boughton

Present: Cllr Sue Pogmore (Ctte Chairman), Andrew Faherty, Angela Faherty, Hugh Jenkins, Neil Matthew, Mike Inder (clerk).

In Attendance: Stephen Eyles.

25/24 **Opening & Apologies for absence:** Cllr Pogmore welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

26/24 **Declarations of interest:** None.

27/24 **Minutes of the meeting 12 Apr 24:** Proposed by Angela, seconded by Neil and accepted as a true reflection.

28/24 **Finance:**

- a. **Treasurers Report:** The treasurer provided an update of the accounts. The annual payments and receipts are attached at Annex A.
- b. **Approval of payments:** The following payments were approved.

Date	Name	Details	Total
29/05/2024	S J Eyles	Winter reed cut & Path cut 1	£650.00
14/08/2024	S J Eyles	Path cut 2 & 3	£300.00
10/09/2024	Stoke Ferry Timber	Boardwalk timber	£219.31
26/09/2024	S J Eyles	Strimmer repair & Path cuts 4 & 5	£326.00

- c. **Reconciliation of Accounts:** The RFO completed the reconciliation with a check of invoices.

29/24 **Action Plan:** The action plan was reviewed and is updated at Annex B.

30/24 **Worklist:** The Winter 24/25 worklist was reviewed and agreed and is at Annex C.

31/24 **Reed Cutting:** Stephen reported that the late summer cut is about to start in 3 areas as previously highlighted.

32/24 **Golly's Bench:** Stephen reported that it is complete and will be installed during a winter work party.

33/24 **Proposal to replace recently lost trees with suitable replacements to improve biodiversity:** ongoing with new growth to be protected from wildlife.

34/24 **Proposal to improve the surface and profile of land adjacent the highway near the bridge for improved access and parking:** Sue reported that she was still waiting for NE representative to meet on site to progress permissions.

- 35/24 **Update of Fallen Trees:** Sue reported that the EA have removed the trees from the river and put the trunks on the bank, they will arrange for them to be removed and delivered to the owner at the next opportunity.
- 36/24 **Update on Albanwise wetland creation project.** Sue reported that reports in the media show progress but that there was no anticipated further involvement of the Fen Ctte.
- 37/24 **Fen Assets Storage and Accessibility:** Small items remain dispersed with the ctte, the rest is still to be found a home but there is no urgency. The accessibility of the DR trimmer was discussed, transporting it from storage to the Fen and back creates an obstacle to its use. It was suggested that it might also be a good tool for the Cricket Club and Hugh offered to approach the Cricket Club to discuss the idea further.
- 38/24 **Bird boxes:** Sue reported that after discussions with 2 interested parties there was enthusiasm to assist with the manufacture and installation. Sue proposed a budget of £500, seconded by Angela and agreed.
- 39/24 **Open Forum:** Sue raised the following matters:
Path Cutting: Stephen reported that he expects the Lower Fen to become impassable due to flooding over the winter. The issue was discussed with possible causes identified, including the creation of a pond on neighbouring land that may have caused the water table to be raised as well as the high rainfall over the last year. Options were discussed including building up the height of the path and a board walk, both would need permission from the EA and Sue undertook to contact Natural England to discuss further. Andrew suggested that the tree trunks left on the land might be repurposed to create a stepping stone style path across the wettest areas in the short term.
- 40/24 **Date of next meeting:** the 24th of Jan 25. Meeting Closed at 6.45pm.

Signature: _____

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Annex A

Income and Expenditure Account 1st April to 31st March 2025					
INCOME					
	Lloyds Bank interest on Deposit Account - 30th April 2024			£23.13	
	Lloyds Bank interest on Deposit Account - 31st May 2024			£27.19	
	Lloyds Bank interest on Deposit Account - 28th June 2024			£28.88	
	Lloyds Bank interest on Deposit Account - 31st July 2024			£34.27	
	Lloyds Bank interest on Deposit Account - 30th August 2024			£31.18	
					£144.65
EXPENDITURE					
	S J Eyles (000063) Invoice 5 Winter reed cut & Invoice 6 Path cut 1 of 2024			£650.00	
	S J Eyles (000064) Invoice 7 Path cut 2 of 2024 & Invoice 8 Path cut 3 of 2024			£300.00	
	Stoke Ferry Timber (000065) Invoice 24084 Boardwalk timber			£219.31	
	S J Eyles (000066) Invoice 9 Strimmer Repair, Invoice 10 Path cut 4 of 2024 & Invoice 11 Path cut 5 of 2024			£326.00	
				£1,495.31	
Surplus/Deficit of Income over Expenditure					-£1,350.66

Balance Sheet 1st April to 31st March 2025						2025	2024	2023	2022	2021
Current Assets:										
Cash at bank - Lloyds Current Account						£16,409.89	£22,370.64	£12,433.30	£23,336.50	£19,679.01
Cash at bank - Lloyds Deposit Account * =						£15,176.66	£10,032.01			
						£31,586.55	£32,402.65	£12,433.30	£23,336.50	£19,679.01
Current Liabilities:										
Stoke Ferry Timber (000065)						£219.31	£10.75	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
S J Eyles (000066)						£326.00				
Net Current Assets						£31,041.24	£32,391.90	£12,433.30	£23,336.50	£19,679.01
Represented by accumulated fund at 31 March 2024									£32,391.90	
Add surplus/less deficit of income over expenditure									£1,350.66	
									£31,041.24	

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN						
Ser No	Initial Date	Action	Update	Owner	Target Date for completion	Review/ Completion Date
1	15-Nov-19	To review BPC Policy library and compare with Fen Ctte policies with a view to collating all aspects in a single library. Clerk to send link to BPC library to all.	The Fen policies are due review at the Sep 24 meeting	Clerk	20-Jan-25	
2	15-Nov-19	All to take pre and post work photos and send to SP for filing.	This item will remain to serve as a reminder.	All	On-Going	
18	01-Oct-21	Sign boards to be treated with linseed oil if possible. The board on lower fen has deteriorated very badly in the last couple of months and needs to be repaired – ACF volunteered to take a look at repairing it	In progress - It was agreed to mount them upright on 4 oak posts	ACF	Summer 25	
46	02-Jun-23	To strim the areas adjacent to the boardwalk in mid June. Sue stated that Stephen had identified areas of Common Meadow Rue (SSSI protected species) and marked them as areas to avoid cutting.	Done during early winter party, brambles cut back, further work in the Summer. Transferred to Winter 24/25 work list.		Spring 25	Closed
47	02-Jun-23	Stock check and rationalisation of the Fen Ctte equipment on the asset register and to consider storage options.	Ongoing- Hugh to discuss storage and shared use with the Cricket Club - Agenda item 33/24	HJ	Summer 25	

Work list for Winter 2024/25

- 1 General Tidy right through walk, particularly on lower fen
- 2 Replace rotting planks in main boardwalk; repairs to steps; end of boardwalk on Highland fen is rotting
- 3 Clear round both outfalls
- 4 Strim round all seats
- 5 Strim boardwalk
- 6 Information signs to be cleaned and repaired as per last year
- 7 Install new seat
- 8 Clear up fallen tree, and cut back further (on Lower Fen) – already partially done
- 9 Cut back overhanging trees on roadside at Oxborough End of riverbank
- 10 Stump near hump in Highland Fen
- 11 Late Summer Cut
- 12 Reduce Bramble level on Highland Fen as discussed, to be incorporated into late summer cut
- 13 Cut and treat scrub in reedbed, and on roadside
- 14 Cut and Treat Sallow along the bank, and anywhere else it can be seen to be encroaching – large patch in Middle Fen near new seat, and fairy ring if accessible.
- 15 Coppice Hazel in Middle Fen with a view to promoting regeneration
- 16 Look into a way to level the verge at the Eastmoor end of riverbank to stop cars getting stuck - still awaiting feedback from NE
- 17 Reed Cutting – Late winter