

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

6th June 2025 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/RFO).

In Attendance: Stephen Eyles.

16/25 **Opening & Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sue Pogmore welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

17/25 **Declarations of interest:** None.

18/25 **Election of Fen Ctte Chair:** Cllr Neil Matthew proposed Cllr Sue Pogmore to continue as Chair, seconded by Hugh Jenkins and voted in favour unanimously.

19/25 **Minutes of the meeting 24 Jan 25:** Proposed by Angela, seconded by Neil and accepted as a true reflection.

20/25 **Finance:**

a. **Treasurers Report:** The treasurer provided an update of the accounts.

b. **Approval of payments:** The following payments were proposed by Sue, seconded Neil and approved.

Fen Payments for Authorisation - January 2025 to May 2025 (presented at meeting 6th June 2025)							
Date	Name	Details	£	VAT	Total	Ref	Cheque Number or FP
27/01/2025	J Hall	Donation towards materials for bird boxes	£250.00		£250.00		69
17/03/2025	S J Eyles	3 Temporary board walk panels & winter cut	£1,174.10		£1,174.10	015 & 016	FP
25/03/2025	S J Eyles	Repairs to Stringside Drain - vehicle damage	£160.00		£160.00	017	FP
					£1,584.10		

c. **Reconciliation of Accounts:** There being no change since the end of year accounts reconciled by the RFO the accounts will be reconciled at the next meeting.

21/25 **Action Plan:** The action plan was reviewed and is updated at Annex A.

22/25 **Worklist:** The Winter 24/25 worklist was reviewed and agreed and is at Annex B.

23/25 **Reed Cutting:** Stephen reported that the late winter cut was carried out on the Middle Fen (RHS towards Oxborough Rd) in mid Feb covering approx 4,000 m2.

24/25 **Update on the proposal to improve the surface and profile of land adjacent the highway near the bridge for improved access and parking:** Stephen reported that he had made the necessary arrangements and achieved a price for c£370 with minor variables dependent on the actual quantity of aggregate required and number of journeys to deliver it. Sue proposed to proceed as planned at the estimated cost, seconded by Andrew and agreed. The work is expected to take one day and no work will be on the highway itself.

- 25/25 **Boardwalk and flooded paths:** The temporary boardwalk panels proved to be very successful and have since been removed and stacked for future use.
- 26/25 **Brown's Fen Lakes:** Sue reported that B Cllr Lintern had been alerted to possible unauthorised development and that it has been referred to the Planning Enforcement team. Further progress on the site has been noted and the Planning Enforcement team updated. The land is Stoke Ferry PC's boundary and as such they are leading on the monitoring and reporting, whilst Boughton PC and the Fen Ctte will continue to monitor.
- 27/25 **Open Forum:** Stephen reported that there was damage to the fen with deep hoof marks caused by horse riding, whilst there is no recent activity and they have not been seen to ask them not to ride as it was causing damage and creating trip hazards on the paths. It was agreed that there was no statutory restrictions to riding on the Fen but from a horse welfare, rider safety and other users of the Fen it was not advisable. It was suggested by Stephen that small 'No Horses' signs at the entry points might be sufficient to deter the practice, it was agreed and he will source the signs.

Stephen suggested placing logs to form an obstruction to vehicles to prevent a recurrence of the incident last winter. It was decided that as it appears to have been a one-off that for now it will be monitored.

Stephen and Hugh mentioned a couple of Ash trees that were in poor condition and asked whether they should be assessed by someone with the expertise. The Clerk advised that due to the potential for litigation then any survey should be carried out by a qualified arboriculture contractor. Sue offered to ask Carl if he was qualified and take a look to advise. It was agreed that the trees that are already in a precarious condition should be removed.

Stephen reported that he had carried out 2 path cuts since the last meeting.

Sue stated that a working party for strimming would be needed soon and that she would organise it.

- 28/25 **Date of next meeting:** The 26 Sept 25 was provisionally agreed. Meeting Closed at 7.10pm.

Signature: _____

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

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	01-Apr-26	
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 - ASC reported that he had identified a supplier of the oak posts and was waiting for the signs to dry out more.	ACF	Summer 25	
47	02-Jun-23	Stock check and rationalisation of the Fen Ctte equipment on the asset register and to consider storage options.	Hugh reported that the DR is stored with him and that it has been checked over and will need line which he had not found online, it was suggested to try Bonnets or Lawn Boy but to wait until it had been started and run. SP has a copy of the manual	HJ	01-Sep-25	
48	06-Jun-25	Walk about to assess items for winter 25/26 work list		SP	26-Sep-25	
49	06-Jun-26	2 Trees falling into the river on the far bank to be reported to the EA		SP	ASAP	

Work list for Winter 2024/25

Completed items reported at meeting on 24 Jan 25 and 6 Jun 25 struck through.

- 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~~
- 18 Litter Pick.