

BOUGHTON FEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

3rd October 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.

29/25 **Opening & Apologies for absence:** Cllr Sue Pogmore welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

30/25 **Declarations of interest:** None.

31/25 **Minutes of the meeting 6 Jun 25:** Proposed by Angela, seconded by Andrew and accepted as a true reflection.

32/25 **Finance:**

a. **Treasurers Report:** The treasurer provided an update on the accounts and asked Sue if she had heard anything regarding the expected RPA payment, Sue has not heard anything, and payments are known to be late some years. Angela asked about the External Audit Fee, the clerk said he would clarify. **Addendum:** *The requirement for external audit was for the FY 2023/24, paid post audit in Sep 2024. The resolution agreeing that the Fen Ctte would cover EA fee where its business has caused the £25k audit threshold to be exceeded was in the Jan 2025 meeting minute 4/25.d. It was unclear whether that was to be retrospectively applied or for future audits? The Fen Ctte needs to agree whether to apply it retrospectively to pay the £315 fee incurred before the resolution was made.*

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

							Cheque No or	
Date	Name	Details	£	VAT	Total	Ref	FP	
21/07/2025	S J Eyles	Path cut 1 of 6 for 2025	£150.00		£150.00	18	FP	
21/07/2025	S J Eyles	Path cut 2 of 6 for 2025	£150.00		£150.00	19	FP	
21/07/2025	S J Eyles	Levelling/improving parking area Eastmoor end	£370.00		£370.00	20	FP	
21/07/2025	S J Eyles	Path cut 3 of 6 for 2025	£150.00		£150.00	21	FP	
								£820.00
29/09/2025	S J Eyles	Horse Warning Signs for paths	£24.00		£24.00	22	FP	
29/09/2025	S J Eyles	Path cut 4 of 6 for 2025	£150.00		£150.00	23	FP	
29/09/2025	S J Eyles	Summer Cut on Highland and Lower Fen	£1,040.00		£1,040.00	24	FP	
29/09/2025	S J Eyles	Path cut 5 of 6 for 2025	£150.00		£150.00	25	FP	
								£1,364.00
29/09/2025	K C Ecological	Removal of fallen trees, Highland & Middle Fen	£245.00		£245.00	216001	FP	£245.00
£2,429.00								

£2,429.00

c. **Reconciliation of Accounts:** the RFO carried out the reconciliation check.

33/25 **Reports on occurrences and actions since the last meeting:** Sue reported that a resident had called to inform her that he would clear a fallen tree on the Fen, Sue informed him that as it was a SSSI site on land under the custodianship of the PC it was not permitted for members of the public to undertake that work without proper authority, insurance and in a manner that was compliant with conservation. Subsequently the tree was dealt with by Karl and removed in part by a Fen volunteer and by persons unknown.
Hugh reported that he had found a person chained to a tree in what appeared to be high-jinx and aided his release.

34/25 **Action Plan:** The action plan was reviewed and is updated at Annex A.

35/25 **Worklist:** The Winter 25/26 worklist was reviewed and agreed and is at Annex B.

36/25 **Reed Cutting:** Stephen reported that the late summer cut had been carried out and that he provided a map of the areas cut to Sue and had cut 4,000 m².

37/25 **Update on the proposal to improve the surface and profile of land adjacent the highway near the bridge for improved access and parking:** This work has been completed.

38/25 **Brown's Fen Lakes:** Sue reported that there was no further update on the Planning Portal and that no further work appears to have taken place since it was referred to the Planning Enforcement officer.

39/25 **Open Forum:**

Sue reported that Karl Charters is taking up new employment and that his contract would not permit him to carry out additional work. The Fen Cttee will need to identify a conservation contractor to replace Karl and that is going to be very challenging and inevitably more costly and less flexible than the service that has been above and beyond at times from Karl; she proposed sending a thank you card to Karl for all his work over the years, agreed by all.

Karl also carried out a tree survey during his last visit and carried out some of the minor works identified as he went along. A number of Ash trees were noted as likely to need work in the near future if they were to be done before they fall. Stephen suggested contacting Jodie Caley as a local tree surgeon qualified and experienced in working on SSSI; It was agreed for Stephen to approach Jodie.

Stephen reported sightings by Karl of an Otter, Kingfisher and Raven on the Fen during his tree survey.

Mike asked that a budget for the next FY be prepared for the next meeting.

Sue offered to arrange the work parties over the winter.

40/25 **Date of next meeting:** The 23 Jan 26 was provisionally agreed. Meeting Closed at 6.55pm.

Signature: _____

Chair: _____

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 Jan 2026 meeting	Clerk	23-Jan-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 - SE reported that he had identified a cheaper supplier of the oak posts and it was agreed for him to purchase 4. ACF expects the signs to be completed by Spring	ACF	Spring 26	
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 search for DR line is ongoing.	HJ	23-Jan-26	
48	06-Jun-25	Walk about to assess items for winter 25/26 work list	Completed and list produced	SP	Complete	
49	06-Jun-26	2 Trees falling into the river on the far bank to be reported to the EA	SP reported EA not responding, ongoing.	SP	ASAP	

Work list for Winter 25-26

- 1 General Tidy right through walk, particularly on lower fen
- 2 Replace rotting plank 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 Cut back Sallow overhanging road opposite Smithy's, car park and bungalow
- 8 Ditto Sallow on Roadside near Oxborough bridge
- 9 Cut back overhanging trees on roadside at Oxborough End of riverbank
- 10 Repair/replace wire netting on Highland fen boardwalk and also in places nearer to the road – need to order more netting.
- 11 ~~Late Summer Cut - Done~~
- 12 ~~Reduce Bramble level on Highland Fen, to be incorporated into late summer cut - Done.~~
- 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 – lower priority if time permits and requires a conservation contractor.
- 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 - Complete~~
- 17 Reed Cutting – Late winter (Post Christmas)
- 18 Hawthorn on Highland Fen needs cutting back – hazardous.

Note – tree still in river – Sue to contact EA again regarding promised enforcement