

BOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL FEN COMMITTEE MINUTES
Friday 5th June 2026 at 6:00pm – All Saints Church, Boughton

Present: Cllr Sue Pogmore (Ctte Chairman), Andrew Faherty, Angela Faherty, Hugh Jenkins, Jo Lloyd (Clerk/RFO)

In Attendance: Stephen Eyles

Apologies: Cllr Neil Matthew

13/26 **Introduction and apologies:** Cllr Pogmore opened the meeting and apologies were received from Cllr Neil Matthew.

14/26 **Declarations of interest:** None.

15/26 **Minutes of the meeting on 23rd Jan 2026:** These were accepted, proposed by Andrew Faherty and seconded by Angela Faherty.

16/26 **Financial Matters:**

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** The year end accounts had been previously circulated and have been audited as part of the Parish Council accounts. A summary of transactions since the start of the new financial year was distributed prior to the meeting. The RPA has been received. The bank balance is £41,068.62. VAT of £1247.64 will be reclaimed by the Parish Council and transferred to the Fen bank account.
- b. **Approval of payments:** The following payments were approved:

Fen Payments for Authorisation - February 2026 to March 2026 (presented at meeting 5th June 2026)							
Date	Name	Details	£	VAT	Total	Ref	Cheque Number or FP
11/02/2026	Boughton P Council	Contribution to external audit 2023/2024	£315.00		£315.00	BPC001	FP
16/02/2026	Stoke Ferry Timber Ltd	Supply of 3 x Treated boardwalk timber	£184.10	£36.82	£220.92	26078	FP
11/03/2026	G N F Forestry Ltd	Felling and removal of dead Ash trees	£5,500.00	£1,100.00	£6,600.00	2933	FP
24/03/2026	S J Eyles	Middle Fen winter reed cut	£1,092.00		£1,092.00	27	FP
30/03/2026	Stoke Ferry Timber Ltd	2 x offcuts marine ply	£16.00	£3.20	£19.20	155413	FP
30/03/2026	Barker DBS	Sealant/Varnish/Linseed Oil	£23.17	£4.63	£27.80	124003	FP
30/03/2026	Stoke Ferry Timber Ltd	4 x Postmix	£23.36	£4.67	£28.03	157657	FP
					£8,302.95		

- c. **Reconciliation of accounts:** The RFO checked and reconciled the Fen Ctte Accounts.
- d. **RPA payment:** This was received on May 19th. The Countryside Stewardship Scheme has 3 more years to run, with this being the 7th payment.

17/26 **Occurrences and actions since the last meeting.**

- a. Cllr Pogmore and Stephen Eyles attended a second meeting of the Marsh Carpet Conservation Group, this time at Wicken Fen. The group includes representatives from the RSPB (Lakenheath), Forestry England and NWT (Weeting Heath). They are looking to see if the moth is still breeding at sites where it was previously recorded. They plan to survey sites at Wicken Fen, the Ouse Washes, RSPB Lakenheath and Weeting. The group have offered to do moth trapping at Boughton Fen over 3 sessions. The first session will be timed to coincide with Meadow Rue flowering, and they will return when the caterpillars

should be present. Fen volunteers will help with surveys of the plant, looking to determine where it grows and what grows around it.

- b. There is a small tree in the water but not on the Boughton Fen side. It might be necessary to contact the EA to remove.

18/26 **Action Plan:** The Fen Action Plan was reviewed and is updated at Annex A.

19/26 **Worklist:** The winter worklist was reviewed, most items completed, attached at Annex B. A short summer worklist was agreed, attached at Annex C.

20/26 **Reed cutting:** This was completed between Feb 26th and March 5th. It is beginning to grow back well.

21/26 **Tree felling:** This is complete and the contractors did a good job. It might be necessary for more trees to be felled, the permit is valid for 2 years.

22/26 **Brown's Fen Lakes:** There has been an application made for a reception hut on the site which both Stoke Ferry and Boughton Parish Councils have objected to. The outcome is not yet known.

23/26 **Open forum:** none.

24/26 **Date of next meeting:** The next meeting was agreed as 30th October 2026.

Meeting closed at 6.53pm

Signed:

Date:

Annex A

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 have been updated and are on Parish Council website. Due review at the Jan 2027 meeting.	Clerk	23-Jan-26	31-Jan-27	
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	Completed.	ACF	Autumn 26	N/A*	
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	N/A*	
48	06-Jun-25	Walk about to assess items for winter 26/27	Completed and list produced	SP	Annual	31-Oct-26	
49	06-Jun-25	2 Trees falling into the river on the far bank to be reported to the EA	Trees removed	SP		N/A*	
50	05-Jun-26	Sign board in Boughton play area needs repair - backboard deteriorated	SP to source marine ply, SE to repair	SE	Autumn 26		
51	05-Jun-26	1 tree fallen into the river on the far bank to be reported to the EA		SP	Autumn 26		
		* these items will be removed					

Annex B

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~~
- 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 river bank to stop cars getting stuck – still awaiting feedback from NE~~
- 17 ~~Reed Cutting – Late winter~~

Annex C

Work list for Summer 26

- 1 Strim around boardwalk, and anywhere else that needs it – steps etc
- 2 End of boardwalk on Highland fen to be replaced.
- 3 Repair back of sign in Children's Playground
- 4 Walkaround at end of summer to plan Winter work
- 5 Late Summer Cut