

Minutes of a meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee, 10th April 2019, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 6:00pm

Present: Cllr J Gisbey (in the Chair)
 Cllr R Daw
 Cllr P Graeme
 Cllr JE Franklin
 Mr M Chandler, Finns
 Mr K Chapman
 Dr A Lipczynski
 Mrs S Hunter

Cllr D Friend also attended

Officer: Amandajayne Hollobon-Baxter

The Mayor had asked Cllr J Gisbey to chair this meeting in her absence.

01.04.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Madam Mayor (Medical appointment), Cllr Watts (Hospital procedure) and Mr A Henderson gave their apologies.

02.04.19 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

03.04.19 MINUTES

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of 10th October 2018. Combination padlocks to be investigated by Mr Chapman.

RECOMMENDATION: These minutes were approved with combination padlocks being investigated by Mr Chapman.

04.04.19 FINNS

(i) The Committee received a verbal update from Mark Chandler, Finns and considered the Management Plan. This has been circulated via email in advance of the meeting. M Chandler further advised that a section of fencing near the underpass on A256 needs urgent repair at a cost of £999.00 (quotation from J Thompson). Committee agreed this work should be carried out as soon as possible. M Chandler to arrange. Higher Tier agreement will be made by M Chandler as usual. The sluice, which is half paid for, will hopefully be installed at the end of Summer when water levels are low and when birds have nested.

RECOMMENDATION: M Chandler to arrange for fencing to be repaired as soon as possible and sluice to be installed at the end of Summer if water levels allow.

(ii) Rhino Plant Hire quotations were considered, and it was agreed that the other sluices will be investigated once the main sluice has been installed and the effectiveness can be studied.

RECOMMENDATION: This information be noted.

(iii) Grazing Licence recommendation contained within M Chandler's email was discussed and Committee agreed this would continue as per previous years.

RECOMMENDATION: Grazing Licence to continue as per previous year and is to be offered to Chandler and Dunn at £1370 for 2019 season (April to November). M Chandler to facilitate.

05.04.19

WARDEN'S REPORT

Councillors received and considered the Warden's Report from the Reserve Warden, Mr Ken Chapman covering September 2018 to March 2019 together with Butterfly Transect 2018 report and Status of the birds 2014 to 2018 report. Mr Chapman was thanked for all his efforts and it was noted that the Butterfly report offers a great baseline going forward and the bird status report was now on file for reference. Mr Chapman advised that signs had been ordered and repairs had been made to the diesel water pump shed. Mr Chapman agreed to order way markers and place these into position. Main notices were to be organised by Mr Chapman with sign off being given by three councillors in relation to style and costing.

Mr Henderson's comments as per his email were read out by The Chair.

RECOMMENDATION: To note these reports. Main signage to be organised and erected as soon as possible.

06.04.19

FINANCE

(i) The Committee received a report from Project Manager in relation to finances for the current year. Mr Lipczynski wished to note the lack of communication in relation to finances for the Nature Reserve.

RECOMMENDATION: Report be noted.

(ii) The Committee received a report from Project Manager in relation to new life buoys for the reserve.

RECOMMENDATION: These buoys be purchased at a cost of £920.00 plus vat.

(iii) To receive a report from Project Manager in relation to compensation received from the E.A.

RECOMMENDATION: This report be noted.

(iv) Statement of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve draft balance as at 31st March 2019.

RECOMMENDATION: Noted.

(v) To review the Wardens fees.

Committee agreed that as this was an HR issue this should be considered within a working group consisting of Cllr's Graeme and Franklin, Mrs Hunter and STC's HR Manager.

RECOMMENDATION: HR working group consider Wardens fees and revert to Committee.

- (vi) To consider any forthcoming expenditure/income relevant to the Monks Wall Nature Reserve.

Responsible Finance Officer to be asked to adjust Wayleave agreement to income for this and future years to be circa £300. All other expenditure and income would be as already agreed and minuted

RECOMMENDATION: Responsible Finance Officer to adjust accounts accordingly in relation to Wayleave agreement.

07.04.19 OPENPARKSAND SPACES

The Committee received a report from Town Clerk in relation to the amalgamation of Monks Wall Nature Reserve and Gazen Salts Nature Reserve. This report was discussed, and Committee agreed to the recommendation made by Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDATION: The Committee supports the proposed meeting between representatives from DDC, Gazen Salts Nature Reserve, Sandwich Town Council and Finns to discuss the proposal in detail with a progress and update report from Town Clerk to be available for the next Monks Wall Nature Reserve meeting.

08.04.19 MEETING DATES

The number of Committee meetings per annum were discussed and Committee agreed bi-monthly going forward.

RECOMMENDATION: Monks Wall Nature Reserve to meet bi-monthly.

09.04.19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed after Mayor Making for 2019.