

**Minutes of the meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee,
held on 28 October 2013, at the Guildhall, at 7.00pm**

Present: **The Mayor (in the Chair)**
 Cllr P Graeme
 Cllr Mrs S Laslett
 Cllr B A Scott
 Cllr J J Watts
 Mr J. Gibbs
 Dr. M Griffiths
 Dr A. Lipczynski
 Dr. M Walkey

Officer: **Miss L Fidler**

45.10.13 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
No apologies were received.

46.10.13 **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS**
Dr. M Griffiths made a personal declaration for the Honorarium payments
that he receives as Warden of the reserve.

47.10.13 **MINUTES**
Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Management Committee, held
on 2nd August 2013 were considered.
Item 04.08.13 (ii): Miss Fidler reported that having studied the land transfer
paperwork there is no reason that another legal entity (i.e. a charity) could
not manage the reserve instead of the Town Council. It was agreed that
once the work by the Environment Agency has been completed their work
this matter will be considered in 2014.

48.10.13 **PROGRESS REPORT**
Members received a progress report from the Warden, Dr Martin Griffiths.
Cllr Watts asked what the Warden's thoughts were on the industrial
development (proposed houses, a supermarket and hotel) at the Discover
Park next to the reserve. Dr Griffiths does not feel that these developments
will affect the site.
Pfizer's continue to access the reserve for the translocation of lizards, it is
not known what rights they have to access the land and what the timescale is
for this work. Miss Fidler will ask the council's solicitor what caveats were
agreed to when the land was transferred. And a meeting with Mr Brian
Crocker will be arranged by Mr Gibbs, Dr Lipczynski and Dr Griffiths to
ascertain what Pfizer's long term plan is at the reserve.

49.10.13 **SANDWICH TOWN TIDAL DEFENCE SCHEME**
Dr Lipczynski reported on a meeting with the Environment Agency's
contractors, from 16th October 2013, and explained the relationship between
EA/Halcrow/Jacksons - it is Halcrow that we need to liaise with if there are
problems. Two of the issues raised were the grazier's use of the site during
this work - he will be able to graze the main fields but not the riverbank, and
public access - the contractors will be in charge of signposting and fencing
off areas where public access is prohibited during the work.

A meeting also took place with Halcrow, on 22nd October 2013, the notes from which are attached to the official minutes. Dr Lipczynski explained that the EA need to plant trees as compensation for the trees that are removed during the project, however, if trees are planted in the main reserve this would be detrimental because it starts to change the ecology of the site, it would not be an advantage.

A further meeting has been arranged to take place on 5th November at 11.30am with representatives from Halcrow and Jacksons. Any member of the committee are welcome to attend; the aim of the meeting will be to get concrete information about proposed trees, tracks and gates on the reserve. It was AGREED that Dr Lipczynski and Dr Griffiths will attend this meeting to ascertain firm details of the work to be undertaken for Sandwich Town Tidal Defence Scheme and report back at the next meeting.

50.10.13 MANAGEMENT PLAN

The latest version of the Management Plan, with amalgamated Terms of Reference, was considered and it was agreed that the document in principle is correct but some of the finite details need to be worked on. It was AGREED that Mr Gibbs will arrange a meeting to which all committee members will be invited to consider what updates and changes need to be made to the Management Plan. The document will be returned to the next Committee meeting for further consideration before being recommended to the Council for approval.

51.10.13 BUDGET

Members received a budget forecast from Dr Lipczynski for the remainder of the current financial year and years 2014/15, 2015/16. This forecast does not include any projects or emergency expenditure. Changes to future grant funding was discussed and Dr Lipczynski explained the difference between and Entry Level Stewardship and a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement. It was AGREED that projects and emergency expenditure will be considered as part of the Management Plan updates.

RECOMMENDATION: Up to £500 be spent on commissioning a consultant to conduct an initial investigation into whether the Committee could apply for a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement.

52.10.13 LEAFLETS

Members considered a memo from Miss Fidler regarding the production of more promotional leaflets.

RECOMMENDATION: That 10,000 new leaflets be produced at a cost of £410.00 from SPC Design & Print. The Committee will consider what updates and changes need to be made and a proof will be obtained.

53.10.13 DATES OF MEETINGS IN 2014

The following Committee dates were set for 2014 – 27th January, 28th April, 28th July, 27th October. All meetings to be held at 7pm in the Meeting Room Guildhall.

54.10.13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 27th January at 7pm in the Meeting Room.