

Minutes of the meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee, held on 27th January 2014, at the Guildhall, at 7.00pm

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

Officer: **Miss L Fidler**

20.01.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Watts who was unwell.

**21.01.14 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were received.

22.01.14 MINUTES

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Management Committee, held on 28th October 2013, were considered and there were no matters arising therein not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

23.01.14 PROGRESS REPORT

Members received a progress report from the Warden, Dr Martin Griffiths, and the following issues were raised:

- Although the committee need to know what the Environment Agency (EA) are doing on the reserve, is it safe for us (or specifically the Warden) to enter the site when work is being undertaken or are there issues of health and safety? It was AGREED that this question will be asked at the meeting with the EA on 28th January.

- The grazier's cattle are off the reserve at the present time and so the EA have accessed the land without a problem. The grazier knows that he won't be able to access the site again for the 2014/15 year. It was AGREED that the EA will be asked if the grazier can return to the site for the 2015/16 year at the meeting on the 28th January.

24.01.14 SANDWICH TOWN TIDAL DEFENCE SCHEME

Dr Lipczynski provided the committee with an update on the project and two supplementary sheets regarding the planting schedule were distributed, copies of which are attached to the official minutes. It was AGREED that the tree planting scheme was acceptable and the EA will be told that they can progress with this work.

The work by the EA will have an affect on the reserve's income, for example the income from the grazier and the cost to cut the grass during the grazier's absence. It was AGREED that Dr Lipczynski will address the issue of compensation at the meeting with the EA on the 28th January; the EA will have a budget for compensation.

- 25.01.14** **MANAGEMENT PLAN**
The latest version of the Management Plan, with amalgamated Terms of Reference, was considered.
RECOMMENDATION: That the Management Plan be put to the Council for approval, pending some minor alterations by Mr J. Gibbs.
- 26.01.14** **GRAZING LICENCE**
Members received a copy of the current Grazing Licence for consideration. However, due to the EA's flood defence work the grazier will not be able to access the site until 2015, at the earliest.
RECOMMENDATION: The terms of the license will be reviewed when the EA have completed the flood defence work and a grazier can access the site again.
- 27.01.14** **THE WARDEN**
Members considered the remuneration for the Warden in the 2014/15 financial year and the job description.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
- **That the Job Description, pending some minor amendments, be recommended for approval.**
- **That the Warden, Dr. M Griffiths, receives £3,000 remuneration, as a contractor, for 1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015.**
- **The Clerk to check that the Council's liability insurance covers the Warden, co-opted Committee Members and staff when at the Reserve.**
- 28.01.14** **LEAFLETS**
The amended text for the promotional leaflets was approved pending some further amendments. The Clerk will progress with getting new leaflets printed (budget agreed for this work at the meeting on 28th October 2013).
- 29.01.14** **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday 24th April at 7pm in the Meeting Room Guildhall.