

Minutes of a meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee, 21st July 2014, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 7:00pm.

Present: The Mayor (in the Chair)
Cllr Mrs S Laslett
Cllr JJ Watts
Dr M Griffiths
Dr M Walkey

Officer: Miss L Fidler

19.07.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Daw who had another commitment, Cllr Mrs Russell who had a district council commitment and Dr A Lipczynski who was on holiday. Apologies from Mr J Gibbs were received after the meeting, he had been unable to attend due to being delayed with another commitment.

20.07.14 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

21.07.14 MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Management Committee, held on 24th April 2014 were considered. There were no matters arising therefrom not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

22.07.14 PROGRESS REPORT

Members received a progress report from the Warden, Dr Martin Griffiths. The following questions were raised:

- Dr M Walkey queried who built the hibernacula at the reserve and Dr M Griffiths confirmed that this had been done by Pfizers. It is not known what the Environment Agency (EA) intend to do with them.
- Cllr Mrs Laslett asked in what state the reserve will be left when the EA have completed their work. Dr M Griffiths and Dr M Walkey confirmed that it is not entirely known. Regrettably it is a case of having to wait and see.

23.07.14 SANDWICH TOWN TIDAL DEFENCE SCHEME

An update on the work being undertaken by G.W.Finns in relation to compensation had been requested but had not been received in time for the meeting. Dr M Walkey confirmed that the EA are receptive to G.W.Finns' involvement and Dr A Lipczynski has been keeping up-to-date with the developments. More information will be obtained for the next meeting.

24.07.14 RESERVE MANAGEMENT & LAND USE

(i) Members received an email chain (which incorporates a letter from Brian Crocker for Pfizer Ltd., dated 13th June 2014) regarding recommendations for ecological management of the translocated reptiles at Monk's Wall Nature Reserve and considered whether these recommendations should be incorporated in the Reserve Management Plan going forward.

RECOMMENDATION: The following response (drafted by Dr M Walkey) will be sent to Mr B Crocker "The Committee was happy to agree to the recommendations of the Report, within the limits of constraints that will be

placed on the Reserve as a consequence of current Environment Agency Flood Defence works. As Managers of the Reserve, the Committee has a responsibility to monitor closely its biota. It would therefore be grateful if you would acknowledge that no further translocation or other activities by external consultants employed by Pfizer will take place without the express permission and presence of the Warden.”

(ii) Members considered whether fencing should be purchased for the new areas of the Reserve and whether grazing should be undertaken or whether vegetation should be controlled through an annual / biannual mowing regime; and if a cost/benefit analysis of grazing is still required, as per item 33.04.14 of the minutes of the Committee meeting on 24th April 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: This matter will be reviewed at the next committee meeting.

25.07.14 FINANCE & BUDGET

(i) Members received the Reserve's accounts as at 30th June 2014.

RECOMMENDATION: That this information be noted.

(ii) Members considered whether the Council should sell a redundant 250 gallon fuel bowser and what the minimum purchase price is that may be accepted. Dr M Griffiths confirmed that the bowser is currently empty of fuel and it is in very good condition, except for a lock which is broken.

RECOMMENDATION: That Dr M Griffiths let the interested parties know that Sandwich Town Council would accept £500, or the nearest offer.

(iii) As per the second recommendation under item 36.04.14 of the minutes of the Committee meeting on 24th April 2014 members considered the Reserves budget for the coming years. Cllr Laslett queried whether Sandwich Town Council was allocating any money in the budget for works at the Reserve this year (in addition to the £36,143.66 already ringfenced for the MWNR). The Clerk confirmed that no further funds from the Council were intended for the Reserve, this matter would need to be considered by the Council's Finance Committee when the budget is being set.

RECOMMENDATION: This matter will be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

26.07.14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th October 2014 at 8:00pm in the Council Chamber, Guildhall.