

Minutes of a meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee, 20th July 2015, in the Mayor's Parlour, Guildhall, Sandwich at 7:00pm

Present: **The Mayor (in the Chair)**
 Cllr RA Daw
 Cllr Mrs J Dunay
 Dr A Lipczynski
 Dr M Walkey

Officer: **Miss T Weir**

13.07.15 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies were received in advance of the meeting. However Cllr Watts gave apologies subsequently that he could not attend due to ill health and Dr Griffiths gave apologies that due to what appeared to be a technical problem with his email account, he had not received the meeting agenda.

14.07.15 **DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERSTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS**

No declarations were made.

15.07.15 **MINUTES**

The Committee received the minutes of the Management Committee meeting on 13th April 2015. There were no matters arising.

16.07.15 **PROGRESS REPORT**

The Warden, Dr Griffiths, was not present at the meeting and so no progress report was delivered.

17.07.15 **FINANCE**

The Committee received the Monks Wall Nature Reserve accounts as at 30th June 2015.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Reserve accounts as at 30th June 2015 be noted.

18.07.15 **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY TIDAL DEFENCE WORKS**

The Committee received and discussed an email from the Town Clerk, Miss L Fidler, to Julian Sampson (GW Finn & Sons), dated 3rd July 2015 and his response dated 9th July 2015. The Committee felt that Mr Sampson was carrying out excellent work on the Council's behalf and that many matters could not be resolved satisfactorily until firstly, a handover date at the end of works had been received from the Environment Agency and secondly, the condition of the Reserve at handover had been established.

RECOMMENDATION: That the correspondence between the Town Clerk and Mr Sampson of 3rd and 9th July 2015 be noted.

19.07.15 **RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Committee received the most recent edition of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Plan (last revised 3rd January 2014). It was felt that two

issues, in particular, needed to be addressed in review of the Plan: firstly, plans needed to be agreed for use of a land strip to the north of the main Reserve, between the Reserve and the Monks Way and secondly, references to the two agri-environmental schemes for which the Reserve was no longer eligible needed to be removed. The Committee felt that, with some additional barbed wire fencing, grazing would be the easiest way to manage the strip parallel with the Monks Way but that another triangular parcel of land at the top of the Reserve adjoining the strip should be left unfenced and uncleared, thereby providing cover for breeding birds.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

(i) That the Warden obtain three quotations for additional barbed wire fencing to make the strip between the Reserve and the Monks Way suitable for grazing cattle.

(ii) That Julian Sampson (GW Finn & Sons) be asked to inform the grazier that once fenced with additional barbed wire, the strip of land between the Reserve and the Monks Way would be made available for grazing in addition to what would already be available this year once the Environment Agency has handed over the site; but that he also be asked to clarify this would not include the triangular area of uncleared land at the top of the Reserve – this area to be left unfenced and uncleared to provide cover for breeding birds.

(iii) That Mr Sampson be asked to clarify what he would advise as a ‘nominal’ fee for grazing in the remainder of this year, with the inclusion of the strip between the Reserve and the Monks Way.

(iv) That Dr Lipczynski and Dr Walkey make the necessary amendments to the Reserve Management Plan in discussion with Mr Gibbs and the Warden, Dr Griffiths.

20.07.15

BUDGET

The Committee received updated information from the Town Clerk, as per recommendations (i) and (ii) under minute 10.04.15 of the Committee meeting of 13th April 2015, regarding income (including compensation) and expenditure, to inform future budgetary planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS: (i) That the Town Clerk, Miss L Fidler, be commended on her report.

(ii) That the report be noted at present but that the Reserve budget be brought back for further consideration by the Committee once the site has been handed over by the Environment Agency and the related financial situation has become clearer.

21.07.15

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th October 2015, at 7pm, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall.