

Minutes of a meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee, 18th April 2016, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 7:00pm

Present: The Mayor, Cllr Paul Graeme (in the Chair)
Dr A Lipczynski
Dr M Walkey

Officer: Miss L. Fidler

09.04.16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Daw (who was on holiday), Cllr Mrs Dunay (who had another commitment) and Cllr Watts (who was unwell). No apologies were received from Cllr Franklin.

10.04.16 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

11.04.16 MINUTES

The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of 18th January 2016 and there were no matters arising not already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

12.04.16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

(i) It was AGREED that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

(ii) The Committee received an update from Mark Chandler (GW Finn & Sons) regarding management of the Reserve, negotiations with the Environment Agency and related issues. A copy of this report is attached to the official minutes. Mark confirmed that the public do not appear to be accessing the Reserve at present.

RECOMMENDATIONS: That GW Finn & Sons be instructed to:

- a) Arrange for the Environment Agency to level and grass cut the top of the bund;**
- b) Pass the wayleave agreement for electricity to the Town Clerk, the Council should then enter into a five year capital payment scheme (over £4k) with National Grid and request a back payment (just over £1k);**
- c) Check if the bird scarers are adequate on the electricity cable and request that National Grid provide more/upgrade if necessary;**
- d) Obtain a quote to replace the felt on the hide;**
- e) Progress with obtaining a Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship agreement. Payment to GW Finn & Sons for undertaking this work will be on a commission basis of 10% of the monies received in each year from the scheme. The Management Plan for the Reserve will be updated when the outcome of this bid is known, as there are compliance rules that will need to be included in the Plan if the bid is successful.**

(iii) The Committee considered the level of fee to be charged for grazing in the current year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the grazing fee continues to be set at £1,250 per year.

13.04.16 UPDATE: SELF-EMPLOYED WARDEN

The Committee received a verbal update from the Town Clerk on progress towards engaging a self-employed Warden for Monks Wall Nature Reserve.

RECOMMENDATION: That this information be noted.

14.04.16 MANAGEMENT PLAN: ANGLING

The Committee considered whether permission for angling should form part of the Reserve Management Plan going forward (the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, on 18th January 2016, suggested that this should be considered and a definitive recommendation made).

RECOMMENDATION: Angling should not be permitted at the Reserve; the Warden will put up prohibition notices if necessary.

15.04.16 FINANCE

The Committee received the Monks Wall Nature Reserve accounts as at 31st March 2016 (year-end accounts).

RECOMMENDATION: That this information be noted.

16.04.16 BUDGET

The Committee considered any forthcoming expenditure / income relevant to the Monks Wall Nature Reserve budget (the Committee on 18th January 2016 recommended and Council on 25th January resolved “*that the Budget continue to be brought back as a recurring item on Committee agendas until further notice*” [minute points 20.01.16 and 29.01.16]). It was noted that there may be expenditure necessary for the removal of the fuel pump. And the cost of flailing is still to be incurred (it has been recommended that flailing takes place in the autumn of 2016).

RECOMMENDATION: That this information be noted.

17.04.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.