

**Minutes of a meeting of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve Management Committee, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018, in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Sandwich at 6:00pm**

**Present:** The Mayor, Cllr Paul Graeme (in the Chair)  
Cllr Mrs Liote  
Cllr JE Franklin  
Mr A Henderson  
Dr A Lipczynski  
Mr M Chandler  
Mr K Chapman

**Cllr D Friend also attended**

**Officer:** Amandajayne Hollobon-Baxter

**01.04.18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**  
There were no apologies received.

**02.04.18 DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS**  
There were no declarations of interest.

**03.04.18 MINUTES**  
The Committee received the minutes of the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018  
**RESOLUTION: Proposed acceptance by Cllr Franklin, seconded by Cllr Liote and carried. These minutes were therefore approved, agreed and signed.**

**04.04.18 REPORT: FINNS**  
To receive a verbal update from Mark Chandler (Finn's) regarding the management of the Reserve and to consider:

**(i) Management Plan**

To receive and consider the revised management plan and approve.  
Management Plan had already been adopted and circulation was not required again.

**(ii) Basic Payment Scheme**

To receive and consider letter from Finns dated 14th February 2018.  
This scheme had changed in 2015 to Active Farmer scheme which meant the scheme was no longer available to Monks Wall Nature Reserve (MWNR). However, this year (2018) the rules had changed and MWNR was eligible again. The cost of buying the entitlements would be circa £7,500 (34 hectares at £215.00 per ha but cost per hectare at the moment is £150.00). M Chandler advised that the investment money would be reclaimed in the first year and subsequent years would be complete profit. Cross compliance must be in place and M Chandler would monitor on MWNR behalf. Land must be maintained in a good agricultural condition for grazing etc. and scrub land is not included. M Chandler to ensure that Grazier ensures compliance if and when nitrate is sprayed in vulnerable areas. Agreed.

**RESOLUTION: The Mayor proposed that MWNR purchase the entitlements, seconded by Cllr Watts and carried unanimously.**

**(iii) 2018 Grazing licence**

To receive and consider letter from Finns dated 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Total cost £1550.00

**RESOLUTION: The Mayor proposed that this is paid, seconded by Cllr Franklin and carried unanimously.**

**(iv) Rhino Plant Hire**

To receive and consider email quotation from Rhino Plant Hire via Finns dated 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Hedge flailing quotation had been received £780.00 plus vat but would have to wait until August/September to progress as birds are currently nesting etc.

**RESOLUTION: The Mayor proposed hedge flailing, seconded by Cllr Franklin and carried unanimously.**

05.04.18

**WARDEN'S REPORT**

To receive Warden's Report from the Reserve Warden, Mr Ken Chapman covering January to March 2018.

As per report circulated with agenda.

Warden had also met with Natural England who expressed interest in walking round MWNR which has now taken place. Natural England email the Warden to advise that they commended the site.

Cllr Franklin asked when the site would be open.

The Warden advised that this was conditional on H & S issues but once these are in place there is no reason why MWNR couldn't open in designated areas. Estimates for signage had been received from Mark Ansell @SPC for foamed boards;

10 x No access signs £75.00

A number of way marks arrow signs £75.00 Main map requires redrawing as original is out of date £500.00 for design and installation, with the board itself costing £50 each and three would be required.

1000 colour trifold leaflets £180.00 or 5000 £495.00 plus design and layout £150.00 Deep sluice would also require sorting before opening. Quotes to be obtained by Mark Chandler.

Barbed wire defending would also need to be installed which is currently being investigated by The Warden.

Permits would be issued FOC and available from The Guildhall (front desk, caretakers office, TIC and possibly the Museum (ATC to discuss with Museum and Heritage Manager)

**RESOLUTION: Proposed by The Mayor £1500.00 to cover all signage including permit notifications being added to signage. Leaflets to be drafted and approved by Committee via email circulation before printing. M Chandler to obtain quotations for deep sluice with authority delegated to The Mayor and ATC to authorise payment. Seconded by Cllr Franklin and unanimously agreed.**

Chemical spraying for rush was discussed. The standard way of dealing with this issue is to cut during July/August and to stop it spreading. To control

more means cutting on a monthly basis. Management Plan states chemical spray as last resort and spraying needs careful consideration. M Chandler advised that the intention was flailing which was successful last year, making chemical spraying a last resort, especially as botanical spraying should be done first before chemical spraying. It was agreed that this should be added into the Management Plan. M Chandler to update Management Plan. The cost of flailing in 2017 was £1623.63 including vat.

**RESOLUTION: The Mayor proposed a budget for flailing for 2018 of £1800.00, seconded by Cllr Franklin and carried unanimously. M Chandler to facilitate.**

M Chandler was asked if final payment had been received from RPAG? M Chandler to chase and advise asap.

M Chandler was further requested to obtain quotations for kissing gates and revert asap.

The Warden advised that he had been invited to a meeting with the area manager of RSPB and other organisations (Han Fen, RSPB Leyden Reserve etc.). The purpose of the meeting was to make organisations aware of monies available (27 million for the whole of England). They are looking for ideas for water management. Bids submission deadline is 11th May 2018. the Warden was looking for consent to continue attending these meetings and to ascertain if funding could be available to MWNR. Warden to keep Committee informed.

**06.04.18**

**FINANCE**

**(i)** To receive a statement of the Monks Wall Nature Reserve draft balance as at 28.02.2018.

**RESOLUTION: Noted and agreed**

**(ii)** To consider any forthcoming expenditure/income relevant to the Monks Wall Nature Reserve.

**RESOLUTION: This had taken place during the meeting item by item**

**07.04.18**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018, at 6pm, in the Council Chamber.