

Clausentum Fen Conservation Group

Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 13th March 2022 at St Faith's Parish Hall

Present: Ann Balfour, Christopher Balfour, Marian Hollingsworth, Anna-Maria Holt (Treasurer), Diane Jepson, Sheila Price, Janet Rowland-White, Pamela Sanderson, Jonathan Sleath (Chairman), Tim Walker.

Apologies for Absence: Loraine Berry, Timothy Gibbons, Brian Millett, Richard Partridge, Lysbeth Sleath, Ivor Snook

1. Welcome
2. Financial Report – see Appendix below
3. Review of past 5 years

Marian resigned as co-chair during the year although remains on the committee. She looked back over the five years in relation to the 2017-22 management plan. It was felt that the first three aims had been achieved and were ongoing:

- a) restore and conserve the different habitats to optimise biodiversity*
- b) enlist, engage and inform the community with our biodiversity programme*
- c) maintain community access via the recreation area and paths*

The fourth aim *d) upgrade Clausentum Fen to a Local Nature Reserve to secure longterm support and protection* had not been pursued. After consultation with HCC it was felt that this would not provide any significant additional benefits and was more of a “badge of honour” that could increase the profile of the site and attract more visitors.

4. Priorities for the future

Jonathan explained that no major works were planned and that ongoing activity on the Fen was related to maintenance. If nothing was done to prevent hydrosal succession then the Fen would revert to the state it was 5 years ago.

The nature of the work in the four zones was described.

5. Discussion.

Janet pointed out that as well as willow saplings growing up there were some young ash in zone 2. Jonathan said that having removed trees to encourage more light we did want more trees to grow up and they would be targeted. There were general comments about the increased footfall through the Fen and the continued problem of dogs running off leads, despite increased signage. Di was concerned about a dangerous severed bough in the sycamore which could fall down. We will attend to this.

6. There had been no nominations for new committee members and the current committee are prepared to continue, so there are no changes.

Jonathan Sleath
Chairman

Appendix: Financial Report

CLAUSENTUM FEN CONSERVATION GROUP

Financial report 2021/2022

Income

Total income in 2021 was £120; the total received through kind donations from CFCG members.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £151.72. This includes £111.72 for insurance and £40 for the website hosting fee.

Balance

The current balance stands at £203.26.

Considerations

Funds in the account remain low however there are no planned large expenses at the time of writing this report. Our ongoing annual costs are TCV membership, although this fee was waived last year, Zurich insurance and the website hosting fee. We must ensure adequate funds are available in the account to cover these fees in the future.

The TCV membership will again be waived this year but the website hosting fee is due in March, and insurance is due in June.

It is clear our funds are reducing even without spending money on tools so we are wholly reliant on donations to cover our costs. Grateful thanks to those who have supported us financially to date. We welcome donations to support the ongoing maintenance work on the Fen. Please contact me if you would like to make a contribution.

Anna-Maria Holt

Treasurer

13th March 2022