

CLAUSENTUM FEN CONSERVATION GROUP

MINUTES
of an Annual General Meeting
held at 5pm on Sunday 18th February 2018

Present: Marcus Swalwell (Chair), Jonathan Sleath (Website Officer), Anna-Maria Holt (Treasurer), Mike Gibbons (Conservation Officer), Sarah Gibbons, Marian Hollingsworth, Lysbeth Sleath, Di Jepson, Brian Price, R. Leslie, Sheila Price, Time Walker, Pam Sanderson, Janet Rowland-White, Ivor Snook, Nick Radford, Liz Crump, Susan Swalwell, Miriam Coley, Andrew Scott, Lorraine Berry, Sue Chairi, Fiona Stannard, Lee Stannard, Peter Crowley, Councillor Ian Tait, Jonathan Swanston and Robert Kerr.

Apologies: Ann and Christopher Balfour, Ann Gildersleve, Pete Durnell (Hampshire County Council), Fizzy and Guy Warren, Charles and Susan Mauleverer, Ann Jones, Rachel Remnant and Janet Lankford.
(Fiona Mather attended before the start of the AGM to express her support for the work of the CFCG and apologised for not being able to stay.)

Item	Subject	Action
1.	Welcome Marcus Swalwell opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. and welcomed everyone.	
2.	Minutes of Previous AGM The Minutes of the AGM held on Sunday 24 th February 2017 had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Proposed by Janet Rowland-White and seconded by Marian Hollingsworth and unanimously approved by all present.	
3.	Matters arising There were no matters arising that would not be covered elsewhere in the Minutes.	
4.	The Chairman's Annual Report Marcus thanked everyone who helped and supported the work of the Group in the last year. He also thanked all the groups and individuals who provided financial support. He summarised the Group's activities for the year and presented a proposal for taking water through a pipe into Zone 3. There was a discussion about the report and there was general support for what had been achieved in terms of letting more light in, clearing nettles and brambles and improving the stream flow. However, some members expressed concerns about the extent of the groundworks and their authorisation, the height of the bund, the loss of trees/hedges and the isolation of zone 4. It was felt that any further work should be discussed more widely within the group. Chairman's Report presentation attached to minutes.	
5.	Finance Treasurer, Anna-Maria Holt, presented the Interim Financial Report with Year End being the End of March. <u>Income</u> Total income in 2017 shown as £6,973 on the balance sheet. £1050 was received through private donations. Our grateful thanks to all our donors this year. <u>Expenditure</u> Total expenditure in 2017 is shown as £6371.72. <u>Debts</u> £1200 is still owed to Nick Horne for the Phase 2 (zone 3 and 4) watercourse and bund remedial earth works.	

	<p><u>Balance</u></p> <p>The current balance in our account stands at £351.28 (-£273 TCV funding ring-fenced for purchasing tools=£78.28)</p> <p>Further funding pending from Round Table Bonfire to be decided on 13th March.</p> <p>Balance sheet attached for more detail of accounts.</p>	
6.	<p>Conservation Officer's Report</p> <p>Mike Gibbons told the Group that the Fen is part of the Itchen Valley which supports a wide range of fauna and flora. Clausentum Fen is already host to otter, water vole, bull head and brook lamprey which would justify SSSI but he explained that new SSSI's are no longer instated due to the bureaucracy and management costs associated with them. Our goal can only be Local Nature Reserve.</p> <p>Mike explained that the wide biodiversity of vegetation and aquatic life can exist on fens with high quality water flow through them and varied depths.</p> <p>Mike also explained that voles have been scared away from Lockburn into Floodstoc as a refuge because of the disturbance by walkers and their dogs off leads on Keats' Walk.</p> <p>Presentation attached to the minutes.</p>	
7.	<p>Elections for Committee positions</p> <p>Marcus Swalwell, Chair of the Group stepped down from the Committee.</p> <p>Existing Committee members Anna-Maria Holt (Treasurer), Mike Gibbons (Conservation Officer) and Jonathan Sleath (Website manager) said they would remain on the Committee.</p> <p>Jonathan Sleath and Marian Hollingsworth were nominated as Co-Chairs and Ann Balfour was nominated as an Ordinary Member of the Committee.</p> <p>The new Committee was proposed by Janet Rowland-White and Seconded by Fiona Stannard.</p> <p>AH thanked Marcus for his time and all his work as Chair.</p>	
8.	<p>Survey findings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments from members collected via the Survey were printed and made available to all AGM attendees. Powerpoint presentation and Survey feedback comments attached to these minutes for reference. 	
9.	<p>Plan for 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 2018 Plan was circulated to all members prior to the AGM and hard copies were made available to those attending. Jonathan Sleath (JS) presented the draft Plan and opened the floor to discussion. Janet Rowland-White said she did not want access to be further encouraged in Zone 1 and 2, or to be used as an access point has increased over the last year. Walkers, including those with dogs off leads, bikes and motorbikes use the entry point opposite Nos. 6 and 7 as a cut through to Garnier Road. Janet suggested that there should be signs to restrict access and/or barrier. Janet also said she commended the work done to date but that we should now wait and see. Pam Sanderson asked if there is a planting plan to which JS replied is a priority for the new Committee. Marian Hollingsworth said that a Planting record was being compiled. Marcus Swalwell explained that the Goat Willow on the bund is intended to replace the excessively cut crack willow boughs but can be relocated if necessary. Liz Crump asked if hedges would be re-planted as the area looks too open. Tim Walker suggested that Alders be planted as they are favourable, and that fallen timber makes a good habitat for insects. He also said that there is also a natural seed bank so suggested we should monitor and see what happens naturally. It was suggested that Richard Lemon and the Woodland Trust be contacted for advice on tree planting. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nick Radford explained that trees will appear naturally and those which begin to grow would be those most likely to survive in the conditions. • Marcus Swalwell said we need to study the hydrology of the Fen to understand and Lysbeth Sleath we should monitor the seasonal variation of the water levels. • Mike Gibbons explained that water in Floodstoc will dry out because HIWWWT has blocked the sluices at the top. Mike added that we must do something now otherwise the Fen would dry out. Mike also commented that the pipe needs to be installed in March or as soon as possible to get to this year's regeneration benefit. • Cllr Ian Tait commended the work carried out and said it was a great example of a community led project, which had been very successful in getting the community involved and succeeding in its objectives for the year. • Pam Sanderson said she was very encouraged by the meeting and the two new Co-Chairs and looked forward to seeing everyone coming together and making decisions. • Lee Stannard commended all the work as the site looks much better than it did and thanked the Group for their hard work. He also said we should continue to work together to improve the site. • Robert Kerr said that it was important to keep momentum going and to not lose sight of what is being achieved. He said that what has been done so far, is much better than not having done anything at all. 	
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10.	Any other business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None recorded 	
11.	Date of next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBC 	

Marian Hollingsworth closed the meeting at 7.30p.m.
Minutes Agreed and Approved

Date: February 2019