

Minutes of a Meeting of Members of Scarning Water Meadows Subcommittee, Breckland District Council and Wensum Valley Trust held at Elizabeth House, Denham on 25 August 2011.

Present Mrs W Brown, Mr A Horwell, Mr R Walton, Mrs Z Footer of Breckland Council, Mr S DaUiston of Wensum Valley Trust, Mr N Hartley, Mr J Walker

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr S Faulkner and Mrs J Hamling.

Discussion of Governance Issues

Mr Walton noted that Scarning Parish Council would like to take a greater involvement in the management of the Water Meadows.

Mrs Footer noted that Breckland Council would like to put a more formal agreement in place, so that permission for any works on the Meadows did not have to be granted on a piecemeal basis. Breckland Council would retain ownership of the site, but the Parish Council would take responsibility for certain areas.

It was noted that SERCO currently sprays and cuts back the footpaths on a regular basis. It was also noted that work in respect of the hedges and trees surrounding the site are carried out on an occasional basis.

The issue of encroachment by residents whose properties are on the edge of the Meadows was raised. The encroachments were all believed to be on land owned by Breckland Council, not the Parish Council. Mrs Footer noted that any residents whose properties have encroached onto the Meadows will potentially face problems when they come to sell their properties as the land is registered in the name of Breckland Council. She also noted that Breckland Council would challenge the claim any resident were to make in respect of the ownership of this land. It was agreed that members of the Parish Council will identify those properties which are encroaching on the site, and will forward details to Mrs Footer. Mrs Footer will then write to those residents.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will take responsibility for the area of land across the Meadows from the stream to the length of Draytonhall Lane estate. This is divided into three sections.

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a. The large playing field (south) will continue to be leased by the Parish Council, and the pond at Blackthorn Drive will be added to this. (The Parish Council will not take responsibility for the land between the Playing Field and the edge of Draytonhall Lane housing estate.)

b. The middle grassed section running between the entrance to the Meadows at Blackthorn Drive and the smaller play area leased by the Parish Council near Ted Ellis Walk. (The smaller play area will continue to be leased by the Parish Council.)

c. The area (north) known as Lucy's Meadow and the very northern strip over the other side of the footpath.

Breckland Council will remain responsible for maintaining the bridges, fences, paths, hedges and trees.

Mrs Footer requested that Breckland Council be provided with an annual Management Plan. Steve Dalhston agreed to provide.

In conclusion, it was agreed that Mrs Footer will :-

- Prepare a plan of what was agreed at the meeting.

~ Instruct a Surveyor to measure the areas discussed in order to provide a plan map.

- Email the above to the Parish Council for approval.

The sub committee of the Parish Council will seek the approval of the Parish Council. If approved, Zoe Footer will need the matter to be signed off by an Executive member of Breckland Council. A lease will then be drawn up.

In the meantime, Mrs Footer will prepare a letter to agree any works to be done on the site.