

## Chronology of the parish council's involvement in the dredging of the river Bure and related deliberations / decisions

### Date and event

All items below refer to minutes of the Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council, unless stated to the contrary.

15 May 2018 – Minute re 'Telephone boxes' continues: 'Whilst carrying out the work, Cllr Fenny noted that the river bank needs to be cleared and so does the river, which is very silted up. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the Environment Agency to see if they can carry out the work. If they can't, she will obtain quotes.'

22 January 2019 – 'The Clerk has arranged for someone from the Norfolk Rivers Trust to come and look to see if the silt can be cleared from the river, and to advise when the best time to carry out the work is. It was agreed that, if the work needs to be carried out before the next meeting, the Clerk should obtain quotes and circulate them for agreement by email.'

As Cllr Fenny was unavailable, it is his recollection that Cllr Buddle met the Norfolk Rivers Trust. No minute of this meeting is available.

5 October 2021 – Item for next agenda: maintenance of river on the common.

16 November 2021 – Item adjourned until next meeting when Councillor Fenny would be present.

19 January 2022 -

### **22/13. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common.**

Cllr Fenny gave a detailed report on the quotes and advice that he had received. It was agreed to go ahead with the quotation from Chris Bunn at a cost of £5,150.00 plus VAT.

8 February 2022 – [The following is included at the request of Tony Barnett (TB)]. He and Stephen F (SF) met on 8/2/22 after Tony had first expressed his reservations about the proposed work (not recorded in the PC minutes, only discovered sometime later) at an earlier PC meeting. This was because TB did not understand what was intended, why and needed to know more about the reason for the expenditure. S and T met at the river at dusk. S explained to T what he thought was the problem, pointing out some details concerning the flow of water at the weir. Stephen recalls Tony suggesting that perhaps pathways might be cut and maintained to the water's edge with wooden pontoons constructed to go part way into the water. As it was getting cold and dark, the matter was left unresolved and we went our separate ways. It was a perfectly civilised and friendly interaction.

7 March 2022 – Email from [REDACTED] to Chris Bunn, copy to Cllr Fenny. This apologises for her delay and continues: 'Please accept this email as confirmation of the works to take place at the river bank for £5,150 plus VAT.'

15 March 2022

**22/35. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common.**

The Clerk stated that she had submitted the order as per the last meeting and was waiting to hear of a start date from the contractor. It was noted that the National Trust at Blickling were upgrading the Bure and wondered if the works they proposed would affect what we wanted to do. Cllr Fenny to make enquiries.

17 May 2022

**22/58. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common.**

The Clerk stated that she had submitted the order as per the last meeting and was waiting to hear of a start date from the contractor. Cllr Barnett objected to the expenditure on this work because he believed that:

1. No clear plan of and diagram had been submitted to the parish council as part of its decision making
2. The parish council had not seen any competitive estimates for the work.

Therefore Cllr Barnett objected on the basis that the decision to go ahead with this project was based on both insufficient technical and financial information.

12 July 2022

**22/85. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common.**

Cllr Fenny to speak to the contractor to see when the work can be done.

26 September 2022

## **22/107. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common. Cllr Fenny to speak to the contractor to see when the work can be done.**

12 October 2022 – Email from Chris Bunn to [REDACTED] ‘...I’m trying to make plans to reprogramme the dredging and river bank work that was agreed and accepted on 07<sup>th</sup> March 2022, you may recall for various reasons we are now approaching the right time of year to start thinking about getting this project underway. Perhaps you could let me know when it would be convenient.’

Same date email from Chris Bunn to Cllr Fenny: ‘...I have emailed your parish clerk today to ask when it would be convenient to get the dredging work underway and thought it wise to let you know. I look forward to hearing from somebody soon.’

13 October 2022 – Email reply from Cllr Fenny to Chris Bunn: ‘I am so glad to hear from you as at our last two [PC] meetings the chair has been keen to know when you might be able to do the work and each time I have explained that you couldn’t during your busy holiday season. Sometimes our parish clerk can be slow in responding so I am going to email her now to say you have been in contact about starting the work as we are all keen to progress. If you don’t hear back from her in the next couple of days please will you let me know...’

14 November 2022 – Email Cllr Fenny to Chris Bunn: ‘We have our parish council meeting this coming Wednesday evening and I was wondering if you have a possible date for when you might be starting the works at Corpusty. (It could well be you have already informed our clerk [REDACTED] but she hasn’t said anything and it is an agenda item for an update)’

16 November 2022

## **22/126. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common. It was noted that the works have been programmed for week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> November.**

10 January 2023 – In reply to a chasing email from Cllr Fenny Chris Bunn replied as follows: ‘...I was waiting to hear from you or the secretary before I started. I emailed on 12 October asking when would be convenient and heard nothing in reply so I am pleased to hear from you now. We have just started a dredging project at the [REDACTED] and a key heading project in [REDACTED]. Typically I would probably be looking at the end of Jan or early Feb. I understand if this is not convenient given that you will be away, so if you could let me know either way that would be really helpful.’

11 January 2023

### **23/13. To discuss maintenance of the river on the common.**

It was noted that the works have been programmed for end of January, beginning of February.

On an unknown date between the meeting on 11 January 2023 and the commencement of works Chris Bunn contacted Cllr Fenny and suggested a site meeting given the time that had elapsed since he had quoted for the works. At the subsequent site meeting attended by Chris Bunn, Cllr Fenny and [REDACTED] Chris Bunn explained that the specified works would now be inadequate, for the reason stated in his email of 20 January 2023.

20 January 2023 – Email Chris Bunn to Cllr Fenny and [REDACTED] as follows:

Hi Stephen [REDACTED]

It was good to see again today and I thank you for your time.

As you are both aware we will need to change the way we originally thought we would overcome the erosion protection in the lower stream.

There has been a considerable and quite concerning amount of bank erosion in the past twelve months, and for this reason it will longer be possible to use the concrete sandbag method, so I propose the following..

Install galvanised wire gabion baskets filled with circa 10 tons of large washed reject stone, angled back toward the bank at approximately five degrees and wired tied were required before back filling with dredged spoil from the river.

In my original estimate for dredging and retaining I had included £450.00 plus vat to supply and install concrete filled sandbags.

The Gabions, washed reject stone and additional plant will be an additional £950.00 plus vat.

I'm happy to do a bit of additional sculpting/straightening of the lower stream at no extra cost which should reduce the erosion.

I think this is the best method to overcome this problem and look forward to your instruction.

In the mean time we will get the dredging underway and hopefully completed week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2023

Kind regards

Chris Bunn

At a subsequent date, which Cllr Fenny cannot recall (but others may be able to confirm) he attended the appraisal of the then Clerk, [REDACTED]. On that occasion he discussed Chris Bunn's email of 20 January with the Charman, Imogen Waterson and Cllr Buddle, who agreed that the works should still proceed notwithstanding the extra works required and additional cost. Cllr Fenny subsequently discussed the extra works required and additional cost with Cllrs Last and Jacobs, all of whom agreed that the works should still proceed.

17 February 2023 – Chris Bunn's invoice.



Ferry Marina  
Ferry Road, Horning, Norfolk. NR12 8PS

Tel: 01692 661177

River and Lake Contractor

VAT Reg No: 324211410

Corpusy Parish Council  
Att: Melanie Eversfield  
C/- 18 Kings Road  
Collishall  
Norwich  
NR12 7DX

INVOICE Page 1

Invoice No	2564
Invoice Date	17/02/2023
Order No	WW
Account Ref	COR002

Unit Price Net Amt VAT % VAT

Reform approximately 95m of the upper river Bure above Corpusy Mill, on the northern bank of Corpusy village recreation land.  
Maintain existing depth at deepest part along the entire length of the bank starting at the tree at the upstream end approximately 15' from the wall near the road, and continuing to the fork at the downstream end near to the sluice gate.  
Grade out spoil to a suitable gradient from the rivers edge and leave for seeding by others - £5150.00 + VAT.

Amendment to original quote:  
Install galvanised wire gabion baskets filled with circa 10 tons of large washed reject stone, angled back toward the bank at approximately five degrees and wire tied where required before back filling with dredged spoil from the river - Additional £950.00 + VAT

6,100.00 6,100.00 20.00 1,220.00

**BACS DETAILS PAYABLE STRICTLY WITHIN 7 DAYS**

Ferry Marina  
Sort: 78-00-02  
Account: 03662543  
Use Reference: COR002

Total Net Amount	£	6,100.00
Carriage Net	£	0.00
Total Tax Amount	£	1,220.00
Invoice Total	£	7,320.00

8 March 2023

**(g) Maintenance of the river on the common - Works completed by Ferry Marina and payment is due - see item 15 below**

Item 15 is not relevant. Item 8 (d) records that all payments 'to be made' were approved unanimously. Those 'payments' are not identified in the draft minutes. The signed minutes include those details:

**d) To approve payments to be made and those in-between meetings - All listed payments were approved unanimously.**

Melanie Eversfield	January 2023 salary	£349.26
Ferry Marina	Riverbank works	£7,320.00
Jason Greenberry	Corpusty Church gates	£1,500.00
Countrystyle Recycling	Bottle Bank emptying	£9.00
Melanie Eversfield	February 2023 salary	£349.26
Melanie Eversfield	Wix domain annual subscription	£108.00
Npower Ltd	January 2023 street lighting electricity	£65.47
Cozens UK Ltd	Street lighting maintenance Jan-Mar 2023	£216.00
Melanie Eversfield	March 2023 Salary	£349.06

The draft minutes record that three councillors were present. In fact, the signed minutes record that 7 were present.