

# Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council

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Clerk to the Council  
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13<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Simon,

## **Dredging of the River Bure**

I am writing in reply to your email of 1 August, and subsequent related correspondence. I reproduce your questions below and set out the Parish Council's responses:

1. Whose technical advice was sought and when?

Please see chronology which confirms that the Environment Agency and Norfolk Rivers Trust were consulted.

2. Who proposed a solution to the perceived problem and when?

After contact with the Environment Agency and Norfolk Rivers Trust, the Parish Council was left with the impression that it would have to arrange the dredging of the river without agency assistance. For this reason Cllr Fenny contacted [REDACTED] whom he knew had been involved in such projects. After several site visits he failed to provide written advice or quotations.

Subsequently Cllr Fenny became aware of work done for [REDACTED] at Elsing by Chris Bunn. A site visit was arranged with Chris Bunn. He demonstrated his understanding of the specific issues and gained the confidence of Cllr Fenny, which was reinforced by his subsequent enquiry of [REDACTED] of [REDACTED].

3. Were the Environment Agency consulted, and if so, what was their response and where can it be viewed?

Yes, but the information given, via the Clerk at the time, was that that the Environment Agency would not undertake the works, which were the responsibility of the Parish Council. It was not mentioned that a permit would be required for such works.

**The questions above relate to the technical basis under which the dredging was carried out.**

**I have four further questions relating more to the procedure of Parish Council business and the final cost of the work:**

4. Was the contract put out to tender and how many quotes were obtained by CSPC?

There was an attempt made to find additional contractors, but none were identified in addition to [REDACTED] and Chris Bunn. As the works were for less than £25,000 the competitive tender regulations do not apply.

5. What was the final cost of the dredging?

See Chris Bunn's invoice dated 17 February 2023, attached to chronology.

6. Minute 8(d) of the CSPC Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 says that "all listed payments were approved unanimously". Did this include the payment of the dredging contract (which I can't find listed)? If so, was the meeting authorised to approve that payment, having as it did only three councillors present?

Yes and yes. There were 7 councillors present. See chronology.

7. Would the mill race, associated weir(s) and bypass stream(s) in fact be the responsibility of the owner of the mill rather than the Parish Council?

The understanding of the Parish Council is that the owner of the mill owns the land on the other side of the bypass stream(s). The bank on the common side is owned by the Parish Council. It is also the understanding of the Parish Council that the mill race and associated weir(s) are the responsibility of the owner of the mill. The Parish Council is not aware of whether riparian rights attach to the bypass stream(s) but can confirm that the Parish Council has not undertaken any works, within the memory of current Councillors, to this infrastructure.

Please let me know if you have any further queries, or wish to take up the offer to meet Councillors Guy Hodgson and Stephen Fenny.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Yacoubian

Clerk for Corpusty & Saxthorpe Parish Council

[REDACTED]