

Minutes of the Friends of Lea Marshes (FOLM)

Tuesday 4th November 7.30 pm Butler's Pantry



Present: Karen Wickenden, Russell Wallis, Claire Hill, Mark Stephenson, Jill Martin, Ann Wallis, Joyce Austin

Apologies: Helen Leone, Emma Bailey, Oliver Stephenson, Clare Holmes, Jon Sanderson, Lyndsey Sanderson, Paul Wimhurst, Pat Cribb, Sue Allison, Neil Allison, John Turnbull, Debbie Revill

Apologies & Resignation: Kevin Martin

1. Acceptance of minutes 26th August 2025 & matters arising

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

2. Lea Parish Council update following Lea Life Quarry Edition

Lea Life Quarry Edition was printed on pink paper and delivered during mid-September 2025. From speaking to individuals, it's apparent that many people are still not aware of the potential quarry in Lea. In response to the newsletter, Lea Parish Council (LPC) received one email from a parishioner voicing support for FOLM.

3. Response following Full Council Question to West Lindsey District Council

LPC and FOLM were encouraged and reassured by the response where site SGO1 Lea Marshes remains an unfavoured site. Thanks go to Emma Bailey for pursuing this matter. Claire to circulate the response to FOLM members. LPC to check if the response can be published on their website.

4. Supporting future consultation responses

Claire and Russ will continue working in the background on material considerations and template objection letters.

5. On-going protection of Lea Marshes

Thank you to Russ for exploring the options surrounding the long-term protection of Lea Marshes.

- The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust concerns itself with land in their ownership.
- Given the potential value of grazing land it is unlikely the site could be purchased for a nature reserve or a similar protected use.
- Promoting the land as a means of crossing the River Trent would be futile as other sites to serve this function have already been identified.
- The SSSI within the proximity of Lea Marshes is in private ownership. It falls within the guidance of Natural England Trent Valley Washlands

Profile 69. There are no specific Washland maps covering this section of The Trent.

- It's unknown if The Environment Agency would be a useful ally or not. A factor such as flood defence might influence the stance.
- The West Burton Power Project might possibly be interested in protecting and enhancing Lea Marshes as part of their biodiversity net gain obligations.

6. Lea Neighbourhood Plan (LNP)

Nev Brown, Senior Neighbourhood Planning Policy Officer at West Lindsey District Council met with members of Lea Parish Council.

- Specific funding for Neighbourhood Plans is ending but there are other possible sources of funding i.e. community grants.
- Nev would be able to offer his support. Strengthening the LNP would be worthwhile. It may not help right now but it might help in the future.
- Nev emailed useful links which have already been distributed to LPC and the FOLM management team.
- Jill to email FOLM management team notes taken during the meeting with Nev.
- Nev has updated the West Lindsey District Council website to show that the LNP is under review. [Lea Neighbourhood Plan/West Lindsey District Council](#).
- Everyone present agreed to form the review committee. Jill to arrange a meeting with Nev.

7. Update from Emma Bailey

Emma has contacted South Clifton, North Clifton, Girton and Collingham Parish Councils.

- South Clifton is not impacted because the traffic doesn't go into their village.
- Girton advises that it's in a Conservation Area. It has a good relationship with Tarmac who own the gravel pits and who are doing some work on legacy pipes that will hopefully reduce the chances of flooding in the future. The extraction site has not been operational for a long time and a gravel pit was sold to the local Sailing Club and a fishery.
- Awaiting responses from North Clifton and Collingham.

8. Any other business and date of next meeting

Claire and Karen to clarify the current status of the Caistor application. The date of the next meeting will be decided after the meeting with Nev. Thank you for everyone for their continued support.