

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of Brooke Parish Council held at Brooke Methodist Hall on Tuesday 6th of September 2022 at 7:30 pm.**

To discuss the proposal for the dredging of the East Mere, Brooke.

Present – Mr Spinks, Mrs Beardsell, Mr Pitelin, Mr Tobin, Mr Wilson and Mrs Hannah.

Apologies for absence - Mrs Jones, Dr Newman and Mrs Brown.

In attendance – Mrs Meadows.

Mr Pitelin presented the proposal to take the opportunity to dredge the East Mere as it is now dry.

This would remove the silt and rejuvenate the mere so that it can once more hold water.

The alternative would be to install a borehole in order to keep sufficient water level throughout the year.

The cost for this proposal has been quoted by three companies...

1. £39,500 + VAT from, Mr Tom Harbinson, Ponds and Lake Management
2. £18,300 + VAT from Mr Henry Pattison, Anglia
- and 3. £13,950 + VAT from Mr Murray Anderson, Anderson Plant

Enquiries have been made and there is no funding available which has been confirmed by Mr John Fuller.

Unfortunately neither of the first two company options are affordable by the Parish Council

All required permissions and waste removal licenses have been sought and granted by the Environment Agency.

Therefore the proposal is for Anderson Plant to dredge the mere, with tractors and trailers used to remove and transfer the silt to the field behind Mereside with permission from the tenant – Kett Farms.

Mrs Meadows had spoken to the Norfolk Wildlife Trust who requested confirmation that the local contractor has all the appropriate experience and full liability insurance. They were concerned that this is a sensitive project, given the historic significance of the Mere, but agreed that September and October were the optimum times for this

Mr Pitelin confirmed that a visit had been made to the site by a member of the NWT who agreed that the silt only should be removed. They do not recommend removing trees

Mrs Beardsell also wished to ensure that the contractor was experienced enough to avoid penetrating the clay lining of the Mere

Mr Pitelin confirmed that Anderson Plant had just finished a similar project to a pond of almost equal size at Topcroft

Mr Wilson wished to confirm that Anderson Plant had all the appropriate third-party and public liability insurance and suggested that Mr Newman, with his knowledge and

connection with the Environment Agency, should be formally requested to oversee the project and check quality assurance on a regular basis during the works

The proposed date for commencing the project was Monday, the 19th September 2022

Finances for the proposal were discussed and it was decided that the Parish Council could afford the cost, although all of the CIL money held, together with the generous support from the White Lion Meres Restoration Fund would be used for the project

Hopefully this would not now need to be done again for the next 15 - 30 years, although Siltex Management can perhaps be done annually to reduce the build-up of silt

Mr Spinks said, providing all appropriate conditions had been met, "Was the PC happy for the project to go ahead"

This was officially proposed by Mr Pitelin and seconded by Mr Tobin  
All PC members present were in agreement

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm