



Parkgate Marsh Contribution to Dredging & Pool Creation FC3/54

BACKGROUND

Marsh Working Group research and analysis

In July 2020 the Places Committee decided to investigate, in conjunction with the Marsh Working Group and other partners, options for the creation of an environmentally responsible co-ordinated plan for mosquito control based on the concept of Open Marsh Water Management. This decision provided the focus and direction for the Marsh Working Group for the next 18 months. The resulting recommendations for pool creation and a dredging programme were informed by a process of regular mosquito monitoring and analysis during this period.

Marsh Working Group recommendations

In March 2022 C&E Committee approved in principle a Marsh Working Group recommendation to support the project to create an additional pool and associated dredging in Parkgate during late summer 2022, with the level of financial contribution to be agreed once costings were made available.

In March 2022 C&E Committee also approved a Marsh Working Group recommendation that a rolling programme of dredging works should be implemented, with Parkgate and Quayside being dredged on alternate years. C&E decided that dredging requirements would be considered routinely as part of the annual budget setting process in order to facilitate this schedule.

C&E decisions re 2022 dredging and pool creation

In May 2022 C&E considered costings for pool creation and associated dredging at Parkgate:

To clear out approximately 2000 metres of main gully from The Old Quay to past the Boathouse car park including the short sections of gullies leading from The Parade and spread all spoil adjacent to the gully: £12,800.

To create new flash to the right of the existing flash at the Old Baths car park by merging a number of small pools into one and to spread all spoil on site: £5,700.

The above costs are exclusive of VAT. The work will be undertaken by the RSPB's approved contractor.

It was noted that there was a desilting earmarked reserve of £16,002.08, £2,000 of which had been passed over from a CWaC Member's budget for the purpose of pond creation in Parkgate.

C&E decided to make a contribution of £9,250 (50% of the quotation cost) towards this project from EMR 325 (de-silting). C&E decided that the £9,250 payment would include a £2,000 contribution from a CWaC Member's budget that had been passed over to the Town Council for the purpose of pond creation in Parkgate.

At the May 2022 meeting C&E noted that the RSPB would be carrying out some work in Quayside during 2023 (NB unrelated to the agreed dredging programme) and the Marsh Working Group therefore anticipated that there would be no pressing need to dredge at Quayside next year. It was therefore decided that the Town Council would

not fund any dredging or pool creation work during the financial year 23/24 but would use this period to replenish the dredging budget for the following year.

CURRENT POSITION

A response has been received from CWaC's Communities & Engagement Senior Manager expressing concern that £2,000 of a CWaC Member's budget has been included as part of the Town Council's 50% contribution and requesting that the Town Council commits the full 50%.

FOR CONSIDERATION

To consider making an additional contribution of £2,000 from EMR 325 (de-silting) towards the cost of Parkgate pool creation and associated dredging works planned for late summer/early autumn 2022.

Audrey Duncan
Governance & Operations Manager