

Dear Overy Parishioner,

## **Overy Marsh**

You may have heard it suggested that Burnham Overy Parish Council (BOPC) should be taking steps to own part of Overy Marsh – The Land shown on the map overleaf – and that it is incorrectly owned by Holkham.

This may be of scant interest to you as you may rarely if ever access The Land because it:

- DOES NOT include the Cockle Path
- DOES NOT include the creeks
- DOES NOT include Scolt Head
- DOES NOT include The Hard

For some it is an important matter, as they hold the belief that the land has been incorrectly registered to Holkham and should be held by BOPC for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

BOPC have investigated this claim at length and in great detail and taken extensive legal and other advice and concluded that they will not be challenging the registration because:

- Very strong legal advice is that they should not take steps to challenge ownership of The Land;
- It is not in the public benefit;
- There is no clarity of ownership;
- Ownership involves a complex web of conflicting duties;
- Challenging the ownership and its consequences would cost an initial £9,000 which is more than the annual precept for the parish, with ongoing costs;
- Costs would be in part be passed on to parishioners;
- There is no benefit to our community because access to The Land would remain unchanged for both public and common rights holders;
- BOPC would not be able to manage The Land as they are not an approved body so they would have to lease it back to an approved body such as Holkham in any event;
- It would be complex, time-consuming, costly and ultimately futile;
- It would require parishioners to contribute to the cost of something they already have- the right to air and exercise on The Land.

BOPC has decided not to challenge the registration because there is no public benefit and it is not in the interests of our community as a whole to do so. BOPC has spent considerable time and cost investigating the claims and is looking forward to being able to transfer energy to more positive activities that benefit the whole community.

The decision is explained in more detail in a report available on the BOPC website. If you have any queries or comments or wish to be sent the more detailed report please contact the Clerk, Sarah Raven Tel: 01328 738512 Email [burnhamoverypc@gmail.com](mailto:burnhamoverypc@gmail.com).

Best wishes to all our parishioners

Burnham Overy Parish Council March 2021

