



MINUTES OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON THURSDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2015 IN ORFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT	Edward Greenwell Cllr Jane Marson Alison Andrews Richard Marson Peter Smith David McGinity Brian Johnson Barry Leach Gary Watson Amanda Bettinson	(Chairman, Farmer Nominee) (Landowner Nominee) (A&O Association Nominee) (Aldeburgh Town Council Nominee) (Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Nominee) (Butley Parish Council Nominee) (Boyton and Bawdsey Parish Council Nominee) (Aldeburgh and Orford Business Associations Nominee) (EA Senior Engineer) (Partnership Secretary)
ADVISORS	Jane Burch Emma Hay	(SCC) (Natural England)
IN ATTENDANCE	Andrew Hawes Frances Barnwell	(Hawes Associates- Partnership Consultant) (Secretary AOET)
APOLOGIES	Guy Heald Tim Beach Rodney West Giles Bloomfield Karen Thomas Lizzie Hammond Bill Parker Haidee Stephens	(Finance and Business) (Snape Parish Council Nominee) (Ecological Representative for RSPB, NT, SWT) (IDB Engineer) (IDB) (Householder Representative) (SCDC) (SCHU)
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC		Chris Edwards (RYA)

1. There were no declarations of interest. **Action**
PREVIOUS MINUTES were agreed with the exception of:
minute 7 Clay Stock piles: should read 'Waste Licensing Team' and
minute 8 last line should read '...200mm appeared to have been gained at Orford in some places'. Minutes altered and placed on the web site.
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - i) **Footpaths:** **JB** noted that the structural work on the cills on the Deben project were almost finished and SCC will be discussing how to assess the robustness of the surfaces and inviting public consultation as their views would be important. It was hoped this would be open and accessible by Easter. **AH** agreed to write up the Orford wall construction and costs for comparative purposes. **RM** advised that the footpath on the Slaughden wall was essentially impassable due to the slippery mud and the boards now present a trip hazard. **JB** agreed to inform the Rights of Way (ROW) team. **AH**
JB
 - ii) **FC1 Realignment:** It was understood that the Flood Cell 1 realignment is still on course subject to RSPB receiving funding for the managed realignment. **FB** asked for confirmation that should the Coastal Path be breached what the consultation process would be prior to any decision to reroute the path. It was noted that any re routing of the path, albeit

longer, will be part of the planning permission requirements – RSPB leading.

iii) New Saltings Projects: **DMcG** informed the Partnership that 5 small sites and 2 longer sites had been agreed along Short and Westrow Reach on the Aldeburgh Marsh shoreline (as shown on the map included with the agenda papers). LIDAR had been applied for but Gary Watson stated this was available on the EA web site. **JB** to inform **HS**. **DMcG** had been in contact with Iris Möller, Geography Department and Deputy Director of the Cambridge Coastal Research Unit who was keen to support the Partnership's work and provide volunteers.

JB/HS

JM noted that the trial run at Ferry Point showed that the attenuation fencing was not high enough and needed to be the same height as the saltings. The most effective build up was between 2.4 and 2.8 ODN. Some green growth is now appearing which was encouraging.

It was also noted that Councillor Richard Smith was happy to contribute again from his Locality Budget and should be approached when a project has been fully costed. **JM** hoped that any surplus of her Locality Budget would be donated to the Partnership.

JM

It was agreed that **DMcG/RW** would prepare an Annual Report on the Saltmarsh projects for the May meeting, to be repeated annually. **JB** thought this potentially was a useful presentation for the East Coast Forum later in the year. **RM** hoped that the work he participated 10 years ago on Lantern Marsh could also be used as historical evidence.

DMcG/RW

iv) Hazlewood Marsh: It was noted that contractors had reshaped and graded the land on the northern extremity of Hazlewood Marsh (Wilkinson land) which was a significant improvement and now just required seeding.

v) Tax Incentives: no previous incentives had been available to encourage funding for flood defences but the recent changes proposed only applies to businesses (farmers/landowners) and does not include domestic householders. Defra are at present discussing these changes. Any comments on this should be directed to Bill Parker. The alternative is of course, to donate to a charity which would allow similar tax gains.

3. **ENABLING DEVELOPMENT**

i) Further to the note circulated with the agenda, the Chairman explained that 9 possible sites viewed the previous week had been selected for Phase 1 which on a very rough calculation might provide about £2.7-£3.3M land sale value. About 10 of the original sites had now been lost due to the setting up of the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership who will take those offered in Hollesley. Land around Friston has changed hands and those sites are unlikely to be offered by the new owners. It is clear that further sites will be required. However, the generic case for enabling development will need to be approved by SCDC who also require financial justification for each site validated to the specific upgrading work on the defences. This may mean that until the Sustainability Appraisal on the Estuary Plan is complete and endorsed by the authorities (potentially early 2016) planning permissions will not be forthcoming. However, work on preparation for sites can still go ahead in readiness. It is clear from discussions that the planners are keen for a number of houses on edge of villages to be built whereas the parishes would favour single plots. The Partnership hopes to discuss the way forward with parishes after the election, during June and July, when all new councillors will be in place.

ii) **Alternative Funding ideas:** **RM** felt that a funding campaign to run alongside the enabling development programme would be advisable and it was agreed to convene a Fund Raising Group to discuss alternative routes of funding.

iii) EG noted he had already written to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to enquire about making an application for funds.

iv) BP had emailed that £5K (for years 2015/16 and 2016/17) would be received by the Partnership shortly for partnership administration (room hire, printing, expenses etc.) £10K has been applied for from a business support grant set up post December 2013 to support the management plans (professional fees etc) for the estuary (if approved to be received by the end of March).

4. **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF ESTUARY PLAN**

The timetable for agreeing the appraisal looked ambitious, and it was advised by JB that a great deal of work would be required in May and June with public consultations. The Scoping Report would set out all the issues as per a defined European document. It was agreed that **AA** should ask Belinda Godbold/SCC for a copy so that the Partnership could understand the relevance of the questions and could advise on local matters.

AA

As part of the iterative process with the Estuary Plan appraisal, **AA** noted that the additional paragraph (as per 4b) had been sent to **SCC** giving approximate numbers for enabling development housing.

5. **SLAUGHDEN FRONTAGE**

As a temporary emergency measure it is hoped that work will commence shortly on 160 metres of frontage north of the Martello Tower as the rock revetments there had failed. Seven short revetment block runs will be built and 8 short rock groynes. Some concern was expressed that this would have a detrimental visually impact but **GW** advised that the height would be no more than 1 metre above the sheet pile. Unfortunately it has not been possible to piggyback this scheme with the Clacton project so the EA are now advertising for rock suppliers and discussing licences with the MMO. More long term high level options were being progressed for a major capital scheme but further data was required before any possible options could be considered.

6. **SNAPE**

Clay was being stockpiled at present and work would commence when the weather improved and the marsh dried out. BP had applied for £20K from the business support grant (as in 3 above) as there is some shortfall of funds to complete the work, although considerable private funding had already been guaranteed.

It was noted that eel (and fish) friendly pump designs were required for discharging water and the difficulties and costs of complying with the legal requirements should not be underestimated as they took precedence over flood defences. **GW** noted that high tech and expensive designs may not always be necessary if low tech and inexpensive options were available.

Upper Estuary Survey: the data collected would shortly be handed to Prof. Pye and **GW** said the EA modelling team would complete their work by the end of March. It had been hoped this would have been completed by end February as the Sustainability Appraisal cannot be progressed until this work is complete and further work on options for a capital scheme for both sides of the river is agreed. With the approval process it may be unrealistic for this work to commence the financial year 2015/16.

Tide Gauge: is shortly to be installed and will allow tide heights to be view on the EA web site.

Butley Mills: It was agreed that **AH** should confirm the levels of the Butley Mills wall as it was thought they were lower than the standard height the Partnership were using for the remainder of the estuary.

AH

7.

BAWDSEY COASTAL PARTNERSHIP

BJ discussed the newly set up partnership which is almost entirely coastal, and covered Shingle Street, Hollesley, Alderton and Bawdsey. He agreed to provide a map to show the geographical extent and the southern boundary of the AOEP.

BJ

The emergency work at East Lane is now in its 4th month. It was noted that the EA are working on a high level economic assessment of coastal processes and will discuss high level options when they have been advised by consultants.

JM advised that the IDB had purchased high strength sand bags for transportation by helicopter in the event of emergency breach work being required. **JM** was in discussion with Royal Haskoning who wished to trial a project. The American Wall on Lantern Marsh was a possibility. EG/AH would be interested in attending.

JM

8.

The next two Meetings are scheduled for 26th March and 26th May.

AJB/7th February 2015