

## AGREED



## MINUTES OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON TUESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 IN ORFORD TOWN HALL

<b>PRESENT</b>	Edward Greenwell	(EG)	<b>(Chairman, Farmer Nominee)</b>
	Guy Heald	(GH)	(Finance and Business)
	Alison Andrews	(AA)	(A&O Association Nominee)
	Malcolm Walker	(MW)	(Aldeburgh Town Council Nominee)
	Harry Young	(HY)	(Business Representative)
	David McGinity	(DMcG)	(Butley Parish Council Nominee)
	Brian Johnson	(BJ)	(Boyton and Bawdsey Parish Council Nominee)
	Jane Marson	(JM)	(Landowner Nominee)
	David Kemp	(DK)	(Environment Agency)
	Tim Beach	(TB)	(Snape Parish Council Nominee)
	Mike Finney	(MF)	(Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Nominee)
	Amanda Bettinson	(AB)	(Partnership Secretary)
<b>ADVISORS</b>	Karen Thomas	(KT)	(IDB)
	Emma Hay	(EH)	(Natural England)
	Jane Burch	(JB)	(SCC)
	Haidee Stephens	(HS)	(SCHU)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Bill Parker	(BP)	(SCDC)
	Rodney West	(RW)	(Ecological Representative for RSPB, NT, SWT)
	Lizzie Hammond	(LH)	(Householder Representative)
	Richard Marson	(RM)	(Estuary Trust Trustee/Funding Chairman)
	Andrew Hawes	(AH)	(Hawes Associates- Partnership Consultant)

### MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Lindsey Clubb (Tunstall Parish Council)

1. There were no declarations of interest **ACTION**
2. The Chairman welcomed Harry Young, General Manager of Snape Maltings, as the new business representative (agreed by both Aldeburgh and Orford Business Association) in lieu of Barry Leach who had recently stood down. The Chairman expressed grateful thanks to Barry for his expertise and time that he has given to the Partnership in the three formative years especially about enabling development.  
  
The Partnership agreed to the election of Richard Marson as an **elected trustee** to the Estuary Trust and that of Brian Johnson as one of the two partnership **nominated trustees** to the Estuary Trust (Guy Heald being the other one). Both are appointed for four years.
3. **MINUTES of 23<sup>rd</sup> June agreed** with the amendment to minute 5 Estuary Plan 300m should read **300mm**.

### MATTERS ARISING

**Footpath trial** – JB noted that a number of public comments have been received, both positive and some less so, but no over topping had been experienced yet.

**Clay exemption** – Each farm is allowed to store up to 5,000 tonnes, though only for 12 months. Further exemptions are being sought. The aggregate levy has been suspended for such material.

**Partnership/Estuary Trust** meeting will take place at the January meeting [14<sup>th</sup>]

4. **ENABLING DEVELOPMENT**

Little progress can be made until the Estuary Plan is agreed. Funding will be required to



develop the first 3 sites for planning permission in terms of architect plans, environmental assessments etc and it is planned to approach donors for cash rather than land to cover funds. The Estuary Trust are preparing to set up a trading company (quite normal for a charity) to circumvent capital, corporation and income tax etc. as HMRC have agreed they would be liable for this when selling land for a profit that has been donated.

## 5. **FUNDING GROUP**

With help from Paul Mackie of SCDC, Richard Marson is drafting a case for raising funds and this should be available for discussion in December.

A meeting was held with the Aldeburgh Business Association to discuss the present situation with regard to enabling development, raising funds and whether businesses had any ideas on how to use some of the £10,000 the Partnership have been given from the BIZ fund. It was a very positive meeting and Richard Keane agreed to investigate whether Business Improvement District (BID) levies would be available for flood defences.

Jane Marson agreed to provide quotes for the bags to be stored and, in event of a breach, would be filled and moved by helicopter. As each breach would have a unique set of circumstances it was thought funding the helicopter would be dealt with at the time by the landowner/IDB.

JM

## 6. **SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL**

**New owner for Babcock Site** The Babcock site on the Ness has changed hands and 120 acres including the masts and former Cobra Mist transmission station is now owned by a company set up by Nicholas Gold. There was a lack of knowledge about the hydraulic implications of the breach in the American Wall (a transverse wall running east to west on Lantern Marsh) which has been responsible for flooding the majority of the Cobra Mist site since the December 2013 surge. It was unclear whether this breach makes a difference to the hydrodynamics in the river. To understand the impact this might have, Alison Andrews agreed to ask Ken Pye for his advice, possibly to be funded by the Alde and Ore Association, as this was not covered in any previous data collections. David Kemp agreed to share any information the EA may have.

AA/DK

Mike Finney stated that he was an unpaid consultant for the new Cobra Mist Co., and that it was hoped to make the company viable with use of telephone and mobile mast coverage, film set and data coverage. It was hoped that a proper clay repair to the breach would be funded and then enable the site to be drained.

**Scoping Report** The Scoping Report comments have been received from the statutory agencies and from the RSPB and NT. In the light of these, amendments to the Estuary Plan are being discussed. This is to enable the Plan to get the legitimacy it needs and for the County Council to undertake the due process on the Sustainability Appraisal with regard to Habitat Regulations and Water Framework Directive.

Main comments made were regarding coastal squeeze and compensatory habitats will be an issue. Further consideration will be needed to assess how soon additional habitats might be required, in particular whether that might happen within the 35 year life of the Plan. A monitoring and collaborative approach with Natural England will be required over the coming years and the NE current saltmarsh work will offer a good base line. The work at the Stanny field centre should also be feed into baseline. **It was agreed** that supporting the monitoring schedule should be written into the plan. More justification was required in the plan as to why the walls needed to be upgraded rather than allowing more roll back and therefore creation of additional marsh land.

AA

The 60 hectares of Hazlewood Marsh, 40 at Boyton and the northern end of Lantern



Marsh will go towards balancing further compensatory habitat but further sites may have to be found in time. It was felt hard to predict now where these would be. It was noted that quality of the saltmarsh was important as well as the extent. Karen Thomas noted that work in the early 90's by Posford Duvivier/Royal Haskoning was not captured in the document and **agreed** to summarise that, the A&O Futures conclusions, Ken Pye's and EA modelling work.

KT

More positive ways of enhancing the environment, wildlife, archaeology and tourism need to be spelt out in the Plan. e.g. the saltmarsh regeneration projects are positive as very useful for fish nurseries as well as for saltmarsh itself.

Amendments will be made by 17<sup>th</sup> October for discussion with the County Council for publication at the end of the month for the public consultation starting on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Further iterations of The Estuary Plan will be required to reflect any further comments received during that consultation.

A rota for manning the public consultations was discussed at it was agreed a briefing session should be arranged prior to the first drop-in on Saturday 21st November. Email and publicity for the November and December events will be circulated shortly.

AJB

#### 7. **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY UPDATE**

Grass cutting was commencing to a length of 150 mm. David Kemp agreed to advise on spot treating of gorse bushes.

**FC10 – Aldeburgh wall.** Site investigations are going ahead pre work to rectify the steep slope which was created by previous poor maintenance and consideration was being given to inclusion of a cycle path just below the crest on the landward side of the wall.

**Slaughden.** Offers for the £400K project to place rock armour 200m north of Martello Tower should be available soon. A licence from the MMO will be required. It was confirmed that the slip from the Yacht Club to the sea will be maintained.

**FC4 –Orford.** EA are going out to tender on maintenance work of a known list of defects on the outer face of the wall – the timing of funding availability and environmental access due to weather/birds will be crucial.

**FC5 – Iken.** Will be maintained in the new financial year (2016/17).

**FC6&7 Snape.** Options for both Snape village and Snape Maltings banks are being discussed and costed schemes will be available in about 6 weeks. These will then be discussed with the local community and Snape Maltings.

DK

#### 8. **SALTINGS PROJECTS**

David McGinity noted that the 7 small areas of restoration projects with oak posts and tensile fencing were nearing completion. Jane Marson said that from her experience with a previous project, the protective fencing needed to be at least the height of the present saltings if not higher for any buildup to take place. This will need monitoring and additional fencing added if it was found to be too low.

**DMcG** was arranging a faggot cutting day in Butley Woods on 16<sup>th</sup> January when it was hoped that volunteers would attend to assemble and tie the faggots used in the saltmarsh restoration projects. Please contact David on 01394 450077 if you wish to attend.

Saltmarsh Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> October at Snape Maltings was fully booked.

#### 9. **WEBSITE**

Jane Marson noted that a functional spec had been sent to 7 companies but no replies had been received. It would not be possible to have the new website ready for the public consultation but the present one hosted by the AONB site would have an extra page specifically for public consultation documents and a contact email for the public to send comments.



**10. AOEP ANNUAL MEETING**

Professor Mike Cowling, Chief Scientist at The Crown Estate, gave a presentation on the shingle engine, [a Dutch trial see: *Youtube –The Sand Motor – Passionate Research*] an exciting possibility of 2 million tonnes of shingle on the shore at Slaughden which works with tide and weather as a natural defence for the coastline. This could have other unexpected benefits to local tourism and the economy but this is only in the early stages of consideration and not yet a proposal.

**11.**

**THE NEXT MEETING**

Will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 2pm in Orford Town Hall but there will be a private session with The Estuary Trust trustees first.