



ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

DRAFT MINUTES FOR AGREEMENT ON 24th APRIL 2018

MINUTES OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2018 AT ORFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT	Edward Greenwell	(EG)	(Chairman, Farmer Nominee)
	Alison Andrews	(AA)	(A&O Association Nominee)
	Brian Johnson	(BJ)	(Boyton and Bawdsey Parish Council Nominee)
	Mike Finney	(MF)	(Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Nominee)
	Peter Palmer	(EO)	(Aldeburgh TC Nominee)
	Jane Burch	(JB)	(SCC)
	David McGinity	(DMcG)	(Butley Parish Council Nominee)
	Jane Marson	(JM)	(Landowner Nominee)
	Harry Young	(HY)	(Business Representative)
	Amanda Bettinson	(AB)	(Partnership Secretary)

ADVISORS	David Kemp	(DK)	(Environment Agency)
	Karen Thomas	(KT)	(IDB)

APOLOGIES	Guy Heald	(GH)	(Finance and Business representative)
	Tim Beach	(TB)	(Snape Parish Council Nominee)
	Rodney West	(RW)	(Ecological Representative)
	Pete Cosgrove	(PC)	(AONB)
	Bill Parker	(BP)	(SCDC)
	Andrew Hawes	(AH)	(Hawes Associates- Partnership Consultant)
	Emma Hay	(EH)	(Natural England)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Roger Baxter, Richard Davey, Richard Cooper
Andrew McDonald, Susie Bridges, Ana Sarginson,

- 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest and the Chairman agreed that new forms for 2018 would be issued in May for completion. As there were now a number of members of the public at the Partnership meetings any public comments would be heard at the end of the meeting. The Chairman apologised for the lateness of the meeting papers but some had not been available till the previous day.
- 2. THE MINUTES** of 6th February 2018 were agreed with the amendment to minute 4 second heading should read Implementation Group's recommendations
- 3. MATTERS ARISING**
The Chairman asked Mike Finney to report on the ED meeting the previous evening as he had chaired it in Tim Beach's absence. **MF** reported there was a wide ranging and helpful discussion that covered the updates on the implementation of the estuary plan and a number of questions that needed answering on ED. It was agreed to ensure that there was good engagement and transparency on perceived problems, a reference group should be established to meet every quarter – the next meeting to be scheduled early May.

A meeting with all Parish Council chairmen was set for 26th April to explain the present situation with the Estuary Plan and other matters.

4. IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

i) Modelling report

In Tim Beach's absence EG discussed the history of the modelling over the previous year and that results from the 3 further runs agreed at the last meeting had been received late on Monday night. These runs were to a) understand the best option to protect Iken and b) understand the consequences throughout the estuary of raising the Iken wall. EG thanked Karen Thomas for preparing a statement late on Monday night for the Tuesday Implementation meeting.

This modelling showed that there was not a great deal of difference in the three options that were modelled with various wall heights but option 1, holding the line at Iken with a wall height of 3.3 (rather than considering managed retreat), does now seem achievable provided a number of houses in Iken and Orford are protected for the period the walls are being upgraded in the Upper Estuary (Snape and Aldeburgh).

There are 7 houses in Iken at increased risk of flooding – 1 house in a 1:75 event, 3 houses in a 1:200 event and 3 houses in a 1:200 + climate change event and 4 houses in Orford but it was agreed that climate change was irrelevant in these calculations as work would be completed in about 3 years or so. These houses would need to be protected in the short term probably with individual property protection/bunds/airbrick covers etc. and these assessments would be carried out very shortly to establish whether they flood at present, the height of any additional flooding which may only be a centimetre or so etc. Discussions would be held with the house owners to ensure they understood the situation. Other non residential property (e.g. barns used as workplace/studios where owners rely on the space for their income/barns with animals etc) will also be assessed. The Estuary Trust would fund the protection. The modelling did show that there would be more water at Snape but no property was at an increased risk in a 1:200 event – if there was overtopping it would be at a lesser degree than it is today.

The EA has in the past used a document for owners to agree they are happy to take the temporary risk but this is usually used for fields not houses. Owners need to understand that they will be better protected once the work is completed. DK(EA) clarified that the Partnership as the 'developer' was responsible for ensuring assessing the property risk assessment was completed. The Partnership would therefore contract with the IDB to undertake the work on the Partnership's behalf.

EG

KT confirmed that the modelling included 2 high and 2 low tides – to cover the issue of the estuary not emptying out from a very high tide before the following high tide comes in. Andrew Hawes had expressed his opinion at the Implementation Group meeting that option 1 (3.3 height) would be the cheapest to build as counter walls, which would now not be needed, would be expensive to mitigate for, build and maintain.

Whether or not to apply for FDGiA funding was discussed but although in some cases the sum may not amount to much, there was more protection as far as risk and maintenance was concerned if a Risk Management Authority (RMA = EA or IDB and in fact SCC and SCDC) undertook the work. If the work was privately funded the applicant takes the liability and risk, added to which there is no mechanism for RFCC levy funding to be paid to a private person/landowner.

It was therefore agreed that work should start on the business cases for Snape and Aldeburgh which could be submitted to the EA late summer for consents (a 13 week period before a decision is reached). Mitigation to houses would be conducted in parallel with the business cases. Provided consents were forthcoming, work could then commence in 2019 following on from any necessary mitigation work. It was agreed that FDGiA funding should be applied for Iken even though it will be a relatively small sum (Snape and Aldeburgh already agreed). HY noted that the LEP funding is conditional on work on Snape Maltings being completed by March 2019.

KT

KT

It was agreed that:

- i) The Partnership confirmed unanimously that the original strategy to raise the Iken Flood cell (FC5) to the same standard as the rest of the estuary was agreed.
- ii) Business cases for FC 5 (Iken) FC6 and 7 (Snape) and FC10 (Aldeburgh) should be started as soon as possible. This would include environmental surveys of walls/ecologist/establish any archaeological issues (April/May) and ensure FDGiA case is compliant.

KT

ii) Wall upgrading – green areas

Andrew Hawes had previously raised the issue of upgrading the areas of wall which already are up to the AOEP standard (those areas marked green on the wall assessments – Appendix 8 of the Estuary Plan). Those marked blue could potentially be upgraded with geo textiles (a wall at 3.1 with mesh is survivable in 2050) to provide resistance to breaching. This would be less expensive as costs of mitigation (moving rare species from the borrow dyke) would not be necessary and there would be less weight of soil and clay on the wall so less subsidence. The EA need to be convinced that this would survive mowing/maintenance in 10-30 years time and that this solution needed to be rigorously tested. EA will consider this approach but should this not be acceptable the Implementation Group would have to consider an alternative scheme.

DK

BJ noted that the Aldeburgh wall Phase I had a crest width of 3.6m which is much wider than standard. For the health and safety reasons a minimum crest width of 3m allows for machinery to access the wall in the future for maintenance purposes.

- It was agreed that:**
- i) the issue of using mesh for blue areas needs to be resolved and
 - ii) whether the green areas are to be untouched.

DK

iii) The Structure document was agreed with the following amends:

The East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (IDB) is a statutory body and a **Flood Risk Management Authority** which will be carrying out the work to implement the Estuary Plan by writing specifications, seeking tenders, engaging contractors, ensuring completion, and certifying work. It will also apply for grants from the Environment Agency (EA) and is providing liquidity to enable work to continue while the Trust raises funds. The IDB has worked with Tidal Lagoon Power, **on behalf of AOEP**, to undertake estuary wide flood modelling and has received funding from the **RFCC to fund the AOEP element of the modelling.**

iv) Saltings Report

David McGinity reported that:

- i) the Orford trial area had been repaired and some interesting results had been noted at the Aldeburgh Town Marches trial area where a range of textures and tension fabric had been proven to work so this will now be expanded to a Sudbourne where a project of 450m is being worked up for submission to Floodline who has £50K on offer for saltings protection.
- ii) The trial at Brick Dock had not been such a success and discussions with Simon Read were ongoing.
- iii) It was hoped to have a session of cutting hazel and making faggots next year in Butley Wood.
- iv) The Suffolk Saltmarsh group were co-ordinating activities on sourcing material and deliveries between all the estuaries.

5.

ENABLING DEVELOPMENT

EG would be discussing potential developments in Butley with the Parish Council and these would be discussed later in the autumn with the community when further assessment of the fundraising has taken place. (see also minute 3 matters arising)

6. **FUNDING UPDATE**

BJ (as a trustee of Estuary Trust) reported that there was £450,000 banked and include standing orders, some quite substantial, which will provide funding streams over the next 5 years and with pledges etc about £1.5M is available. The Funding Group is asking for donations from everyone in the Estuary community and continue to discuss donations with high net worth individuals. There is now also a JustGiving account which is beginning to see donations. The Trust were very encouraged with the results of the modelling and were keen that work commenced as soon as possible as this could encourage the fundraising. With the IDB public works loan, currently about £2.3m, cash and pledges from landowners of almost another £1m and the Andren legacy (for Flood Cell 4, Orford) held by AOA, funds are available for work on the walls.

This year a number of events are being planned by the Funding Group to raise awareness and funds - cricket matches, a flotilla (swimmers, kayakers etc) from Aldeburgh to Orford and art shows.

The Estuary community have themselves organised events, with proceeds going to AOET: marmalade completion (Aldeburgh), a wine tasting (Orford) and an Open House (Orford) for which we are very grateful. The Funding Group will provide information and volunteers to help with any such events.

7. **INTERIM CONSULTANT**

The Partnership agreed to the appointment of an Interim Consultant to scope the financial and delivery strategy of the Estuary Plan. HY agreed that this was required but thought that 13 days (over 3 months) may not be long enough.

8. **Jane Marson** reported that the sea wall south of the Slaughden Martello Tower had been damaged in the snow storm and extreme weather of the previous week. The EA assured the Partnership the area was their number one priority and were assessing the damage.

Comments from Members of the Public

- **AMcD noted that he felt the February minutes did not accurately reflect a decision taken. The Minutes were however, agreed by the Partnership.**
- **The appointment of a project director was supported**
- **Query whether there was an overarching risk register**

9. **NEXT MEETING:** Agreed for Tuesday 24th April at 2pm

Annual Community Meeting at Snape Maltings Recital Room 14th April 1030-1pm