

ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP

DRAFT MINUTES FOR AGREEMENT ON 14th NOVEMBER 2018

MINUTES OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON TUESDAY 18th JULY 2018 AT ORFORD TOWN HALL

PRESENT	Edward Greenwell	(EG)	(Chairman, Farmer Nominee)
	Guy Heald	(GH)	(Finance and Business representative)
	Tim Beach	(TB)	(Snape Parish Council Nominee)
	Alison Andrews	(AA)	(A&O Association Nominee)
	Brian Johnson	(BJ)	(Boyton and Bawdsey Parish Council Nominee)
	Peter Smith	(PS)	(Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Nominee)
	Peter Palmer	(PP)	(Aldeburgh TC Nominee)
	David McGinity	(DMcG)	(Butley Parish Council Nominee)
	Jane Marson	(JM)	(Landowner Nominee)
	Amanda Bettinson	(AB)	(Partnership Secretary)

ADVISORS	David Kemp	(DK)	(Environment Agency)
	Emma Hay	(EH)	(Natural England)
	Karen Thomas	(KT)	(IDB)

APOLOGIES

	Harry Young	(HY)	(Business Representative)
	Jane Burch	(JB)	(SCC)
	Rodney West	(RW)	(Ecological Representative)
	Pete Cosgrove	(PC)	(AONB)
	Bill Parker	(BP)	(SCDC)
	Andrew Hawes	(AH)	(Hawes Associates- Partnership Consultant)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Roger Baxter, Jonathan and Diana Hunt, Jane Clarke, Queens University Belfast.

ACTION

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.
2. **THE MINUTES** of 24th April 2018 were agreed.
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - i) **Saltings Project at Sudbourne** – David McG reported that agreement had been reached with EA earlier this year that £93K would be given towards 2 projects, one on the Alde and Ore at Sudbourne and the other at Kyson Point on the Deben. This sum included the costs of monitoring and surveying as well as construction for both projects. The projects applied for an MMO licence and the elements of surveying, construction and monitoring were put out to tender. There have been a number of difficulties obtaining satisfactory quotations for the work, in part due to the complicated process. The EA has now decided to split the 2 projects and tendering can now happen separately. However, the depth of erosion on the river bank at Sudbourne is much worse now than the previous assessment earlier in the year and the lagoons were non-existent as they had dried out completely. The project spec has been redesigned with the frontage reduced to 320 metres with the lagoon work removed and the number of bays requiring special treatment increased to 8. The contractor is happy to quote on this basis and to complete the work by the end of September. The lagoon construction will be held in abeyance for the time being.
 - ii) DK noted that sea wall maintenance work at Slaughden will be going ahead in September/October now that agreement has been reached with Cobra Mist on access to shingle.
 - iii) It was understood that Snape Maltings' Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) application was

successful but formal notification was yet to be received. HY to agree local PR communications.

HY

iv) The Chairman noted that The Partnership had agreed that there would be a number of constitutional changes to be formally agreed in November. The Household Vacancy would be replaced with a parish council representative. Initially Iken PC would be asked to select a representative while work on the upper estuary was completed. This seat would then be replaced with a representative from the lower estuary when discussions on upgrading work commences there.

v) It was also agreed that all parishes would be asked for a named representative to be appointed on flood defence issues with whom we would keep in contact and who might act as an ambassador for The Partnership.

EG/AJB

vi) The Partnership had discussed the possibility of converting to a Community Interest Group due to fears, amongst other issues, about members' liability. The process of becoming a CIC is not simple, but more importantly the IDB had signed a letter indemnifying The Trust and Partnership of any risk. It was therefore thought unnecessary to proceed further with this for the moment.

vii) Emma Hay discussed the fund available from the S106 which requires Innogy UK to make an annual payment towards management works to support the populations of Lesser Black Backed Gulls (LBBG) in the Alde-Ore Estuary SPA, as mitigation for mortality impacts that will result from the operation of their recently completed Galloper offshore wind farm. For various reasons the key conservation bodies (NT and RSPB) cannot use this money directly but recognise the enormous conservation benefits it could bring (more broadly than just gulls). Discussions have taken place with the IDB who see real potential in this with multiple outcomes. The S106 was made in favour of SCDC but they do not feel that they have the capability to manage the fund. There have been discussions about transferring the fund to be in favour of another body; and the IDB as a statutory body have the ability to hold this fund. Discussions will be held with IDB/and landowners who would be happy to have enhanced HLS projects on their land which would be combined with landscaping during upgrading wall works.

EH/KT

4. **IMPLEMENTATION GROUP**

i) As the funding decisions lie with The Estuary Trust, it was agreed that the Implementation Group required re-constituting to include Trustees so that decisions could be made more quickly and communications between The Trust and Partnership would be enhanced. It was also suggested that an environmental advisor would be useful on this group. The RSPB, NT and SWT will be contacted to agree a suitable representative. In any event a new representative will be required to take over from Rodney West, the Environmental Representative who is not standing for re-election to his second term on the Partnership.

Jane Maxim had suggested a new technical group should be formed to scrutinize the IDB costs but it was felt by all, and supported by David Kemp, (EA), that any scrutiny of the schemes was amply covered by the EA on behalf of the public purse. DK explained that once the business cases were presented to the EA scrutiny committee, the scheme was judged on 5 major areas: commercial, strategic, financial, management and ecology. It was not necessary to "double deal" on this aspect. Over-scrutiny was unnecessary; albeit the trustees have to assure themselves that they are spending private money wisely. DK pointed out that these projects are nearly always partnership funded and the Large Projects Review Group (LPRG) would give reassurance that the project is good value for the taxpayer and should therefore be sufficient to cover any partnership funding via a charity.

Although schemes could potentially be undertaken privately and in some instances cost less, it was important to apply for FDGiA funding as this ensured that the EA not only scrutinised the scheme before giving consent but they also would then take responsibility for maintenance in the future once the upgrading work was completed. The NE would be consulted for the FRAP consent so a major environmental organisation would be involved. JM agreed she was happy with the level of scrutiny. GH thought only one trustee was sufficient to sit on the

Implementation Group rather than two.

EH advised that Natural England would be withdrawing from all but crucial work due to financial cuts but they would provide a discretionary advice service.

ii) KT discussed the IDB report. The IDB were currently preparing the business cases for Snape, Aldeburgh and Iken to apply to the EA in the autumn for consents for work which will start in 2019 as soon as conditions are favourable. KT advised that there would be increased benefit if these three flood cells schemes were dealt with together to enable the FDGiA to be maximised and fully utilised, as potentially there may be more FDGiA at Snape than can be spent. However, the FDGiA contribution is reliant on the partnership funding being in place - in excess of £2million will be required for Snape and Aldeburgh schemes alone. These upper estuary costs should be available early September. Concurrently, the IDB are also preparing defined costs for the remaining flood cells which will be available at the end of September.

Before the Snape FC business case can be submitted there needs to be a peer review of the work already completed privately by Snape Maltings west of Snape Bridge to ensure that the EA agree to accept this work back for maintenance purposes. JMarson noted that the Partnership could not support a design that would mean landowners were made responsible for the maintenance. More importantly, FDGiA for the remaining flood cells (if applied for together), will not be agreed without scrutiny from engineers that this work is sustainable. A report from independent engineers was required who could assess AH's supporting evidence that the design was resilient to 1:200 + climate change – i.e. the AOEP's adopted standard.

*EG/AH
DK/KT*

Action: EG/KT/DK to take forward with Andrew Hawes and ensure documents and designs are available for independent consultants – possibly Castons of Ipswich (Chartered Surveyors).

KT was progressing work at Iken to discuss the door step surveys with those temporarily at flooding risk (i.e. from the time **after** final completion of the Aldeburgh and Snape walls and **before** the Iken wall is finally completed). All clay deliveries have been stopped to Iken while an investigation is taking place to establish licence arrangements etc and it is hoped a working protocol can then be agreed for clay deliveries throughout the estuary. This clay is delivered free by contractors. The IDB are also preparing a strategic engagement plan to be discussed with the AOEP which will include how best to communicate the delivery of flood cell schemes to the community.

KT

Action KT to provide communications strategy

5. ENABLING DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

EG advised that there would be a further meeting with SCDC but there would be a delay on any applications at least until November when the defined costs were available from the IDB.

6. FUNDING GROUP REPORT

Jane Maxim discussed the fundraising and a summer campaign mainly based in Aldeburgh to engage visitors. It was hoped that fundraising will be easier when the fully defined costs are received in September. A good report had been received from an independent assessment of Phase I Aldeburgh wall as this work was agreed initially out of phase with the IDB and Estuary Trust grant protocols. £100,000 had been paid to the IDB by the Estuary Trust for work to cover costings and business case preparations. A Gift Aid application will be made shortly and should amount to about £60,000.

Events this summer: Banners will be placed at the roundabout and on the land opposite the Aldeburgh Yacht Club. Suggestions for further places up and down the estuary are very welcome. A new leaflet has been produced (attached) asking everyone to

text: AOET10 £10 to 70070

**ALL TO
DO THIS!**

Everyone (even those on this distribution list which number 78 = potentially £780) are

encouraged to do this – not just those visiting and living in Aldeburgh! If 300,000 people gave just £10, £3million could be raised.

During the Aldeburgh Carnival the Old East Suffolk Hotel will be dressed supporting The Estuary Trust. Further updated information boards will be prepared to put around the estuary in key locations – Aldeburgh, Snape, Orford etc – on public footpaths/Quays etc to inform both community and visitors of the upgrading projects. Action KT/JMax

The AOET website is now live at www.aoctrust.org

KT/JMAX

7. **MCZ Consultation:** AA reported that the consultation runs until the 20th July but as the MCZ now does not involve the estuary and only covers ‘inshore’ which is actually 14 km off shore, the Partnership agreed it was unnecessary to respond directly.
8. **The next meeting is on 14th November 2018 2pm Orford Town Hall**

AJB 26/07/2018