

ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP
DRAFT MINUTES FOR AGREEMENT 27th JUNE 2019

MINUTES OF THE ALDE AND ORE ESTUARY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST MARCH 2019 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)
	David McGinity	(DMcG)	(Butley Parish Council Nominee)
	Harry Young	(HY)	(Business Representative)
	Norman Johnson	(NJ)	(deputising for Colin Chamberlain Iken Parish)
Amanda Bettinson	(AB)	(Partnership Secretary)	

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

APOLOGIES	Jane Marson	(JM)	(Landowner Nominee)
	Peter Smith	(PS)	(Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council Nominee)
	Peter Palmer	(PP)	(Aldeburgh TC Nominee)
	Diane Ling	(DL)	(Ecological nominee)
	Andrew Hawes	(AH)	(Hawes Associates- Partnership Consultant)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	Jane Maxim (AOET Funding Chair)
	Andrew McDonald, Chris Gill

ACTION

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest.

2. **THE MINUTES** of 18th July 2018 were agreed. The Chairman thought the Partnership would like to give their thanks to Jane Burch who retired in December and Bill Parker who was retiring in July, both of who gave the Partnership a great deal of support in the early years and also to Emma Hay who will be taking up a post with the National Trust as Assistant Wildlife Advisor for the East of England on the 25th March. We wish them all well.

MATTERS ARISING

3. i) **Saltings Project at Sudbourne** – David McG reported that he was resigning as leader of the Saltings Group since the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) licence process had failed to agree consent for a project even after waiting for over 40 weeks. They had so far charged in excess £5,000 (including charging the EA for phone calls) for a project that was in total costing £19,000. The window of opportunity for EA funding had now been lost. It was agreed that the Chairman would write to the MMO and copy the letter to both the Flood Minister Therese Coffey MP and to the local media.
- ii) DK noted that sea wall maintenance work at Slaughden had been completed last October but easterly winds had removed a considerable amount of the shingle almost immediately. However, a considerable amount of material had returned though now there is shingle ridge but no haul road for about 2-300 metres. SMP working group meeting is on the 25th April.
- iii) The Chairman updated the Partnership that landowners had withdrawn the enabling development project as a means of fundraising. They had agreed that the £3million public works loan, held by the IDB, would be used for initial cash flow and match funding for FDGiA etc and would eventually be donated to fulfil the Estuary Plan towards the end of the project.

4. IMPLEMENTATION GROUP REPORT

- i) Karen Thomas reported that the upper estuary business case was being prepared and it is hoped to be submitted to the Environment Agency in May. Jacobs (environmental consultants) have been preparing the environmental assessments and data required. There is some remaining work to be completed on permitted development to ensure that the plans do not have to be submitted for planning permission.
- ii) The Partnership formally agreed that it had given approval to the IDB business plan on the basis of the **provisional costings for £26.9 million** provided on the 14th January to the Partnership, **and that the IDB would be responsible for Project Managing the upgrading of the walls.** [These costings and the exact work involved will initially be discussed at the Implementation Group who will report back to The Partnership giving clarity on costs and the technical upgrade once the business case is prepared.]
- iii) **David McGinity raised the issue that as public funds were being donated to improve the walls the AOEP should be proactive in asking landowners to offer public access on all the walls. EG thought that the new coastal path might cover these issues, but the Partnership should discuss a policy statement on their position.**
- iv) It was noted that the RSPB contribute to the IDB drainage rates for their land at Boyton (FC1). **Work on the walls of the lower estuary and Flood Cell 1 in particular, has not yet been discussed in detail and this will be clarified in the next year or two when upper estuary work is underway.**
- v) Emma Dixon reported on the feedback at the community meeting which included 94% satisfaction with the IDB proposals, 98% broadly support the plan. KT would be making arrangements to meet both Snape, Iken and Orford & Sudbourne parish councils. [Discussions with Aldeburgh Town Council took place on the 25th February 2019]. Tim Beach thanked every member of the panel who presented at the Community Meeting on 27th February which was thoroughly professional and was recognised by many as giving confidence that implementation of the plan was in good shape.

5. FUNDING GROUP REPORT

Jane Maxim reported that the fundraising strategy in 2019 will continue to concentrate on encouraging public donations, grant applications and events. She said it was particularly pleasing to have members of the community volunteering to organise their own events. Since December the Trust had received donations from the sale of Christmas cards, a painting, honey, from an annual marmalade competition set up by the local Aldeburgh butcher and a gala evening at the Aldeburgh Jubilee Hall.

Following an application to the Garfield Weston Foundation (GWF), a family-founded grant making trust, a donation of £400,000 had been received, taking the fundraising total since the launch of the Save Our Suffolk Estuary campaign in October 2017 to over £1million. GWF has also pledged a further £100,000 as matched funding – a target for this year. Gift Aid has provided almost £100k.

In the last 12 months the East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (IDB) has received over £200,000 from the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust. This has funded the IDB's work to estimate total costs for the various flood cells within the Estuary, including the costs of their advisors, in particular, Jacobs, MLM and RPA. The output of this work was presented at the community event on 27 February. Further work is being funded by the Trust to enable the submission of the detailed business case for the upper Estuary to the Environment Agency in May.

Two big Trust events for 2019 are a **FLOTILLA on July 28th** - swimming, paddle boarding and kayaking with the tide from Aldeburgh to Orford (booking available soon at www.aoetrust.org) and the return of the hugely successful **BIG SUFFOLK QUIZ on Friday November 22nd** at a pub near you. Please note that the TEXT donations service is likely to be withdrawn at the end of March. Should you have any leaflets which contain TEXT please bin them and email admin@aoetrust.org for a new supply.

6. **MONITORING REPORT**

AA discussed her agenda item on the AOEP monitoring and review strategy which had been an essential part of approval of the Estuary Plan. The paper reported the target items to be measured and the methods for baseline and the first 5-year measurements being put in place. The formal 5-year report would be completed once the 2020 data had been collected. It was noted that a website page for the monitoring and review strategy was being prepared.

7. **SIZEWELL C CONSULTATION**

The partnership agreed the draft letter to be sent in response to the Sizewell C Stage 3 pre-A consultation.

8. **The next meetings will be on:** 27th June, 19th September and 12th December at 2pm
Orford Town Hall

AJB 25th March 2019