



# THE TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY:

Website: [www.ttef.org.uk](http://www.ttef.org.uk)

## MINUTES

of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 at  
the Castle Centre, Barnstaple at 7.00 p.m.

### Present were;

Lesley Burgess	Westleigh Parish Council
Paul Dymond	TTWC
David Jenkins	Taw and Torridge WEBS
Simon Brown	Instow Parish Council
Valerie Deering	Appledore Residents Assn.
Sandra Knight	Coastwise
Chris Hassall	Rolle Canal
Norman Briden	Devon Birds
Alan Rennles	Barnstaple Town Council
Rodney Cann	Fremington P. C.
Jasmine Chesters	Braunton P. C.
Trevor Johns	Bideford Town Council
Tony Pratt	NDYC
Mel Parker	Natural England
Paul Labistour	Torridge District Council
John Breeds	Hon Member
Chrissie Ingle	N. D. Biosphere
Peter Hames	Northam Town Council
Tony Bown	Observer

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence:** With no Chairman TP offered to chair the meeting. This was accepted.

**Apologies** were received from Niki Tait (RNLI), Andy Bell (Biosphere), Becky Aston ( N.E.), Richard Hancock (Northam T.C), Jim Bell (YAG), Alasdair Barclay (1716 Comm.), Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB), Sean Kearney (T.D.C.)

**2. Annual Election: Officers:** No nominations have been received.

It is understood that the current members of the P & C Committee are happy to continue.

**3. Presentation of TTEF Annual Accounts for 2017.** TP presented the draft annual accounts. These were to be checked by Val Deering and would be e-mailed to members as soon as possible.

### **4. Annual Subscription Rate for 2018 and Honoraria**

It was unanimously agreed that the Annual Subscription remain at £20 per associate and that the Honoraria not taken should remain in place in case of future need.

**5. Minutes of Previous TTEF Meeting:** on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October were accepted as a reasonable record of the meeting.

### **6. Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes;**

#### **(a) Estuary Report: Including:**

**Bideford Harbour Master, Capt. Paul Labistour;** Capt. Labistour reported; that he was not a harbour pilot but there were now four, including Capt. P. Brown ex of Dover, that Brunswick Wharf has now been sold, that vessels in that area were to be moved, that wrecks were to be disposed of and that new policies were being put in place re houseboats. There was to be a meeting between the National Trust and TDC with input from the Crown Estates. TP asked that TTEF be invited to that meeting as wrecks and houseboats were becoming a national issue. New by-laws to deal with the problem were being considered. There was also a problem at Velator. Capt. Labistour also reported

on shipping movements and said there was to be a new survey of the estuary. TP asked that the publishing of Harbour Board minutes and notice of meetings be followed up. Capt. Labistour agreed to look into this.

**Wrecks on the Estuaries;** a new trawler has appeared below Westleigh and another houseboat near the oil jetty. Capt. Labistour has been checking on these.

**Appledore Instow Ferry;** TP reported that passenger numbers were again up with 21,292 carried. The ferry restarts on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Horsey Island;** there has been a meeting between interested parties including the EA, Biosphere and others to discuss issues arising from the Shoreline Management Plan. The Great Sluice still needs repair and the Drainage Board has reported 14 listed buildings in the area.

**(b) North Devon's UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve:** Chrissie Ingle reported that there would be a marine Pioneer Workshop in February and that there was a MMO Workshop on the SW Region Marine Plan with a focus on N. Devon. There was also an Estuary Pollution project between the E.A. and the Biosphere to advise farmers on waste water management. There was to be a meeting on Friday of interested parties to consider the implications of the Shoreline Management Plan on the **Horsey Island** situation. The Great Sluice still needs repair.

**(c) North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership:** TP reported that Steve Mulberry has taken over from Steve Pitcher as chair and that he was reviewing links with some partners including TTEF .

**(d) Northam Burrows Erosion;** there has been serious recent erosion with considerable damage done to the golf course and the tip area. The 8<sup>th</sup> tee has been partly washed out, the Club "wall" damaged with more membrane exposed and the membrane protecting the tip largely exposed. TP was asked to write to TDC asking what was proposed to remedy the situation.

**(e) Any other matters arising.** The N. Devon & Torridge Local Plan was still under review.

**7. Planning, Consultations etc, including:** The P & C Committee had considered;

**a) Housing at Yelland;** Cllr Rennles left the meeting with a declared interest.

**b) Housing in Appledore & Coastal Path** along the Skern; CH reported on problems concerning re-alignment resulting from development and erosion.

**c) Website.** The new website was under construction.

**d) Brunswick Wharf;** a new developer has been chosen but as yet there is no planning application.

**e) Anchorwood Bank;** no work has been done on the Oliver Building. Cllr Cann said this was still under discussion. No progress has been made on the wildlife area.

**f) Richmond Dock;** an idea has been mooted to bring the SS Freshspring there for work.

**g) Sealock Barn;** application now approved.

**8. Minutes and Report of Policy & Consultation Committee.** Notes of 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> Nov. and 8<sup>th</sup> had been circulated and were adopted. See Item 7.

**9. Urgent Matters brought forward by the Chairman;** there were none.

**10. Correspondence Received:**

a) Natural England Call for Data

b) Exe Estuary Winter Forum Invitation

c) Exe Estuary Codes of Conduct

d) Coastwise Spring Programme (Revised)

e) Coastal Partnerships Network Newsletter

f) Info re Govnt 25 Yr Env. Plan

g) National AONB Annual Report 2017

TP would circulate these to members interested.

**11. Agenda Items proposed for next Meeting;**

Talk by SAS on plastic pollution.

**12. Any Other Business:** (short information items only);

i) Capt. Labistour asked if meetings might possibly be held in the afternoon.

**13. Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings;** were agreed as Mondays; 16<sup>th</sup> April (Bideford), 16<sup>th</sup> July (Barnstaple), 15<sup>th</sup> October (Bideford) & 21<sup>st</sup> Jan. 2019 (Barnstaple)