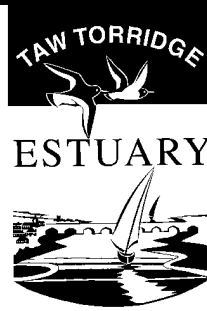


THE TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM



CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY:

Website: www.ttef.org.uk

• MINUTES

- of the General Meeting held on Monday, 16th April, 2018 at the Town Hall, Bideford 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
Trevor Johns	Bideford Town Council
Tony Pratt	NDYC
Mel Parker	Natural England
Paul Labistour	Torrige District Council
John Breeds	Hon Member
Peter Hames	Northam Town Council
Chris Hassall	Rolle Canal
Fred Jefferis	
Niki Tait	RNLI
Cheryl Stansbury	Minutes Sec

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

TP informed the group of the sad passing of Alasdair Barclay.

Apologies were received from Paul Dymond (Wildfowlers), Sean Kearney (TDC), Cllr Rennies (BTC), Rose Day (Hon), Jim Bell (YAG), Becky Aston (N.E.) Richard Hancock

TP reported that SAS had been contacted with a view to talking to the Forum, but had not responded. CS and PH both had contacts and would put in a request.

2. Minutes of Previous TTEF Meeting: Monday, 15th January, 2018 were accepted as correct. CH proposed. SB seconded. Unanimous vote

3. Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes:

(a) Estuary Report: Including:

Report from Bideford Harbour Master; PL reported that the Brunswick Wharf wrecks had been moved; just 3 houseboats remain on the quay and possession was being negotiated. Chivenor estate has taken out injunctions to remove boats, hence boats appearing elsewhere on the estuary. Most had moored on areas where land ownership was unknown, so investigations are taking place. PL suggested arranging a meeting to bring all stakeholders together (including TDC, National Trust) to try to resolve the issue; the Forum agreed and TP asked that interested parties be informed of the meeting. TP agreed to look for survey carried out several years ago into land ownership. Meetings have taken place with Christie and Crown Estates, both are keen to find a solution; Christie are looking towards an environmental stance to resolve.

Houseboats/liveboards on the estuaries; now 5 on Torridge. TP gave a brief history of the boats, noted the problem of increasing debris and structures around them. Forum agreed there were no problem with houseboats as long as they abided by the same regulations as everybody else. Forum agreed to support PL; resolution "TTEF unanimously supports the BHM in attempts to bring together interested parties to resolve the problem of wrecks and liveboards on the estuary" MP stated NE has case studies which might assist and requested NE and the EA attends any meetings

Wrecks on the Estuaries; WSYWIG yacht had broken moorings 2 years ago and concern it is now breaking up. TP is aware of 2 more yachts this winter. NDYC to be contacted to see if owners can be traced.

Appledore Instow Ferry; the season started 5th april. Training undertaken. There had been a blessing and 200 people carried on the first day. New boat under investigation

Salt water Ingress to Braunton Marsh ; CH visited to look at the breach. Water moving in and out very quickly and now starting to erode inside of bank. Horsey Island appears abandoned. The White House has a newly constructed bank for protection. Notice a planning application for the great sluice; the fitting of new metal flat valves to replace the wooden valves. Application reference on NDDC website is 65642, registered 5/3/18.. Consultations still ongoing. Noted Braunton PC recommend approval. HE defer to NDDC Conservation Officer. The whole sluice structure was underwater and it wasn't high tide, but no water was entering the culvert. TP noted that at low tide, the fields on the estuary side are covered in deep silt/mud/sand. The bridge has disappeared. Concern raised over the height of the water against the bank and the need to raise the bank. TP to chase BPC for their views.

MP stated NE's view is to take a wider overview of the whole estuary to ensure works on one place to not have a detrimental impact elsewhere. TP stated the Biosphere team need to input into this. MP informed the group she was aware of a planning tool (Coastal Change Management Area) which sets out planning principles and believed to be part of the NPPF. MP will investigate and report back.

Speeding on the Estuaries; noted this is an ongoing problem. Signs have the incorrect speed limit and are too small to be seen by anybody on the water. NT asked if a sign could be painted in big letters on Appledore Quay wall. TP has written to TDC several times and been informed their legal department will not accept responsibility for the estuary; it rests with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, who have not replied to TP. In reality, nobody is accepting responsibility. Form requested PL seek to TDC with a view to painting the

speed limit on the wall. Discussed regards bylaws. TDC can make Bylaws but have no resources to do so. PL also mentioned the difficulty in enforcing bylaws. TDC used to employ a slipway warden, but withdrew this due to lack of finances and TDC lawyers view that TDC are not responsible. Group noted concerns over dangers on slipway with numerous boats coming and going. NT also noted the tide gauge had disappeared from the wall and raised concerns with quay jumpers. PL stated a similar sign for Bideford cost £1000. PL agreed to approach TDC with a view to replacing signs and painting the speed limit on the quay wall.

(b) North Devon's UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve: Forum disappointed to have no reports or apologies from Andy Bell

(c) North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership: Noted Alasdair was the AONB Rep. The new AONB chair is reviewing links to various groups but TP had heard nothing further. A report had been circulated to group prior to the meeting. TJ queried the date given in report of Jan 2018 should read Jan 2019.

(d) Northam Burrows i) Erosion at Greysands. Forum noted work had taken place to cover the tip and shore up the Golf Club wall. CH had visited and appears in good condition; likely to last this season. NT felt a big spring tide will be a problem. The repair where the breach occurred is only as far as the rocks and noted dog walker had filled in some areas with stones; it hadn't been officially repaired. CH noted 2 weeks ago the tip end rocks had been filled in and near the 8th green, a wall had been rebuilt with sand, shingle and pebbles. At spring tide water will still come in and run into the now permanent lagoon. MP stated NE isn't protecting the golf course, but has discussed with them and awaits a proposal if they wish to do anything. Reports show nothing is cost effective and consent has been given to TDC for the installation of "Dragons Teeth". They are looking into re-profiling the rock armour by the tip area. CH noted the rock armour hadn't moved, but land was eroding behind it. NE have given options to TDC officers and is awaiting feedback from members. NT drew attention to Alasdair's report and confirmation of all kinds of hospital waste, cyanide and so on that had been dumped in the tip when it operated 24/7.

(e) Annual Accounts; It was proposed by TP, seconded by Fred Jeffries, that Val be confirmed as Treasurer. Audited accounts circulated and accepted.

(f) Timing of Meetings; Discussed PL's request for afternoon meetings. Agreed to stick with evenings

(g) MMO Workshop; postponed due to snow. TP and PL had been unable to attend the re-arranged date

(h) Richmond Dock; VD explained AMHT still believe the dock has a future. Noted Sharpness and another dock have full order books for heritage ships. Could be a working commercial dock and a tourism asset. It was noted the dock was under new ownership and potential planning proposal for shops etc. PT queried if TDC ought to serve notice to tidy up the dock, given its Grade 2* listed status, and requested to be kept informed if any applications were submitted. PT asked what help the Forum could give; VD stated to give support to AMHT proposals.

(i) AONB Forum TP & CH had attended

(j) Any other matters arising. Harbour minutes are now on TDC's website

4. Planning, Consultations etc, including:

a) Housing at Yelland; noted work in the fields had commenced and that TTEF had objected

b) Housing in Appledore; 2/3 applications approved on the road out of the village, one withdrawn. One application approved at appeal, on left on way out of village. Application submitted on right side for 2 instead of 3 dwellings; objections received from NE and AONB. Forum expressed concern about difficult to resist further proposals in light of appeal.

c) Housing in Northam/ Knapp holiday homes; likely to be taken back to Committee in May as was deferred following HE objections; assessments have been done by the developer.

d) Website; work in progress

- e) **Brunswick Wharf**; no updates
- f) **Anchorwood Bank development**; work underway
- g) **Foreshore below Leisure Centre**; **no updates**; AR to chase up
- h) **Survey on behalf of Yelland Quay Co.**; **It was not certain if this had taken place.**
- i) **Agricultural Tie on "Mouna"**; decision deferred subject to an agricultural report

5. Minutes of Policy & Consultation Committee. Notes of the P & C meetings of 5th Jan, 2nd Feb & 9th March, 2018 were circulated and unanimously agreed.

6. Urgent Matters brought forward by the Chairman;

- a) **Venue for October meeting.** VD to check if Appledore Hall is available. TP suggested NDYC if booked.
- b) **Membership of Forum.** TP read out correspondence from Fremington PC who did not wish to renew their membership given protest groups had joined. The group discussed this and felt, in line with the constitution, it was appropriate for genuine conservation groups to join, and it was felt they might bring forward issues that others were not aware of. It was felt there might be a lack of awareness of the what the Forum does. TP agreed to contact FPC with a view to attending a meeting explaining the remit of the Forum and stressed the need for all stakeholders to feed back to their respective groups.

TP asked for volunteers to sit on the P & C Committee. Membership was now down to 3 and meetings often attended by only 2. Meetings are Friday afternoons, once per month.

7. Correspondence Received: TP referred to letters from Trinity House newsletter, Seascape Assessment Workshop 24th April at Plymouth University 1 - 3pm,, a Commonwealth Schools Ocean Pack, renewal of TTVS registration, contact from geography student looking to work on Marsh.

8. Agenda Items proposed for next Meeting; Meeting to discuss strategic overview. Surfers Against Sewage to be invited to talk. MP requested the hydrographic survey results be circulated (PL agreed once some technical issues had been addressed)

9. Any Other Business: (short information items only) CH informed the Forum the Rolle Canal walks resumed monthly, starting May 6th and running until August.

NT - noted the lifeboat monitors the river mouth. This has been the first year due to silting that the big lifeboat has been severely restricted at every low water spring tide. Also referred to Devon having the highest suicide rate, with particular reference to the bridges. AR informed that Barnstaple TC had erected Herras fencing at either end of Barnstaple bridge

10. Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings; next meeting 16th July, Barnstaple

Meeting closed 8:45pm