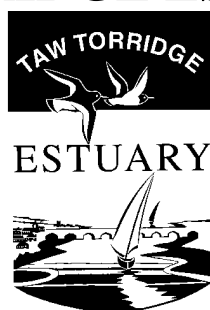


THE TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM



CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY:

Website: www.ttef.org.uk

MINUTES

of the General Meeting to be held on Monday, 15th Oct, 2018 at 7.00 p.m. at the North Devon Yacht Club.

Present were;

S Brown	IPC
Dave Jenkins	Taw and Torridge WEBS
Valerie Deering	Appledore RA
Sandra Knight	Coastwise
Chris Hassall	Rolle Canal
Norman Briden	Devon Birds
Tony Pratt	NDYC – Chair
Jasmine Chesters	Braunton PC
Chrissie Ingle	ND Biosphere
Paul Labistour	Harbour Master Torridge District
Lesley Burgess	Westleigh PC
Peter Hames	Northam TC
Rodney Cann	Fremington PC
Tony Bown	Observer
Jenny Carey-Wood	AONB
Trevor Johns	Bideford TC
Cheryl Stansbury	Minutes Sec

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Sean Kearney (TDC), Niki Tait (RNLI), Nigel Batley (RNLI), John Breeds (Hon. Member), Jim Bell (YAG), Paul Dymond (TTW), Rose Day (Hon Member)

2. Minutes of Previous TTEF Meeting: Monday 16th July, 2018. Minutes previously circulated and agreed subject to amendments:-

- Richmond Docks – omission of reference to the visitor centre
- Item 8. CI said updating codes of conduct is to be done, but is not a “focus”
- Remove “bn” from start of Item 9

3. Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes:

(a) Estuary Report: Including:

Report from Bideford Harbour Master (PL); Paul Brown, the new marine pilot was appointed a month ago. Brunswick wharf – vessels have been removed and TDC now has vacant possession. The redevelopment of the Wharf has been the driver for their removal. Removal was very expensive, involved barrister and mediation with a judge, who informed the owners they would be unlikely to succeed in court. The last 3 boats were moved at high tide across to Landvisiau Walk, which has resulted in other problems for TDC.

Tony Pratt (TP) queried if this has set a precedent for other boats on TDC/NDC land. PL explained that the remaining boats are on land for which no title can be found. Chris Hassall (CH) queried if they would gain title for default if they remained on that land for a set amount of time.

Houseboats/live-aboards on the estuaries; discussion took place regarding the meeting on June 19th. It was felt no firm ideas emerged from this meeting. Disappointment was expressed that due to the change in timing, NDC were not able to attend. It was requested that minutes be taken of future meetings, to enable all parties to look back and follow up on any actions.

TP reminded the Forum that the EA (meeting June 19) stated that if the boats had been decommissioned, they should have been cut up. They could well now be classed as industrial waste and the owners need a license; TP is unsure if the EA are to follow up on this.

TP asked PL if TDC were progressing with making new bylaws, as they once said they would be. PL was unsure. It was mentioned Peter Christie sits on the Harbour Board and TP will write to him to enquire.

Rodney Cann (RC) requested formal notification of any further meetings as he was unaware of the June meeting. TP reiterated it had been organised by TDC, not TTEF, and he recalls Jane Whittaker was to write to NDC. TP agreed to write a letter to NDC's Chief Exec copied to RC, requesting that NDC work with TDC to resolve the issues of houseboats being deposited on river banks and being lived in.

TP asked PL if he knew what the device was that has appeared on the oil jetty. PL informed the Forum it belonged to Andy Glover and was believed to be a piece of a windfarm. No permission was required from the Harbour Authority. RC will follow up on this.

Wrecks on the Estuaries; no new wrecks, apart from a few smaller vessels following recent storms

Appledore Instow Ferry; a grant application has been submitted to Leader 5 for a new ferry. Poor weather and tides resulted in reduced passengers for September, but overall numbers are up year on year. The ferry will run until the end of October, but is now caught by darker evenings. A seal was seen off Appledore slipway. TP has been contacted by a Phd student who is looking at how "Ferries Connect and Rivers Divide".

Salt water Ingress to Braunton Marsh; Jasmine Chesters (JC) sits on the Marsh Drainage Board and updated the Forum. The Somerset Consortium have helped with designs for the new sluice. Work has now been carried out on the sluice, 2 side tunnels and the flaps. There is no sea water going in. A report is to be written and a long term management plan prepared. The Marsh Inspectors have noticed there is some water ingress onto the toll road so this needs investigating, JC stated that the figure to repair the Horsey island breach was around £2 million, so was not likely to happen. It is in private ownership, the owner chose to not carry out any works, and it is anticipated this will eventually become salt marsh.

Dave Jenkins (DJ) told the Forum that at the last high tide, water was close to the top of the inner bank in places, and could top the bank with higher tides. JC stated that raising the banks is part of the next stage of the programme.

CH asked if the Forum could receive a copy of the report once finalised.

RC noted disappointment that the EA do not seem concerned over losing 200 acres to the tide and felt it was a retrograde step.

Speeding on the Estuaries; TP asked if PL could chase up the new signs to go on the harbour walls. PL agreed to do so

(b) North Devon's UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve: Report from Chrissie Ingle (CI) –

There will be an update on the Natural Flood Management Project at the next Forum meeting.
Farmer Estuary Project – 10 farmers now signed up in the Caen catchment area. Funding is being sought for 4 more. Farmers are able to create ditches, wetlands, fence off areas close to watercourses. The next step might be to look at a different catchment. There has been some work on the Kenwith Valley.
Marine Working Group – report is on the webpage.

WWF (Forum were informed at the previous meeting) are developing their survey tool kit for Marine Protected Areas (MPA). The Government can use this to see how well the MPAs are doing. CI urged everyone to look at the toolkit survey and fill it out. It has been noticed a lot of people are looking at it, but are not then doing the survey. Its not known why. CI will send link to TP for circulation to the Forum.
September Marine Working Group (MWG) Meeting – presentations on the website. Group is looking at mapping the area, what groups and partnerships there are. Outputs will be used from the WWF project by the MWG.

A map of the area has been produced, followed by a matrix showing what each habitat provides, such as food, sea defences and so on. The map and matrix have been put together to define relative values – to show which habitat is valuable to which service. This then allows identification of risks and priorities for investment.

WWF has a list of potential projects and has asked the MWG to prioritise them.

RC mentioned that Sky Ocean Rescue are to fund 2 projects and CI confirmed they are looking for ideas for MPAs.

(c) Update on the Marine Pioneer Programme; covered above

(d) North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership: Report from JCW – the AONB is helping to fund a high tide disturbance roost study with the EA. Will be conducted over the winter into spring as part of a partnership between NE and the RSPB, and a small grant was made from the AONB sustainability fund.

The AONB 5 year management plan is being reviewed, out for consultation next week until the end of November. It's a very light touch review given uncertainties with Brexit and changes in agricultural policies. Copies will be available at libraries and council offices.

Coastal Creatures project – Cat Oliver has now finished this. Project involved schools, Northam Burrows and Coastwise North Devon. A wildlife trail leaflet has been produced.

AONB is working with Plastic Free North Devon (PFND) and the PFND Consortium.

Involved in the Marine Conservation Society seaweed project.

Heritage - Lottery Money has been secured to carry out a Coastal Heritage project, looking at the built environment, hillforts and WW" heritage. A new officer has been appointed for this – Jo Penfold

(e) Northam Burrows; PH understood the EA and TDC are still working together on a plan. TP will contact Sean Kearney to find out more.

i) Erosion at Greysands. There appears to be no immediate cause for concern.

ii) Northam Burrows Forum; CH attended their last meeting. Interested parties are welcome to attend. CH has requested that TTEF be invited to future meetings, understood to take place 2 x year. No response has been received to his email to the Chair and Clerk. PH offered to follow this up.

(f) Richmond Dock; Val Deering (VD) – research has revealed that the best way forward is as a Valued Community Asset. The group is still looking at how to get hold of the dock ; owners want £1.2million

(g) Foreshore below Leisure Centre; RC updated on plans to raise flood defences, to move the leisure centre and put residential properties in its place. Vessels moored will be given notice to move

(h) Fremington Parish Council; following TP's visit, FPC are now back on the Forum, represented by Rodney Cann.

(i) TTEF and GDPR; still to be finalised but emails are now being sent "blind"

(j) Any other matters arising. PH mentioned concerns over herbicide spraying around watercourses at Knapp House

4. Planning, Consultations etc, including:

- a) Housing at Yelland, Work is progressing and new link created for access to the Tarka Trail
- b) Housing in Appledore; the 2 bungalows have been refused at Plans Committee. No implications report was necessary
- c) Housing in Northam. See l) below
- d) Website; slowly progressing
- e) Brunswick Wharf; previously covered
- f) Northam Burrows Visitors' Centre; application approved. TTEF had objected.
- g) Horsey Island; previously covered
- h) Houses at Pitt Lane; VD - application due to be submitted soon for 107 houses; eventually 600. Action group has been formed and as soon as application is submitted they will be writing objections. VD will let TP know when it is submitted. PH confirmed it is an allocated site in the new Local Plan
- i) Knapp Holiday Homes; permission has been granted and caravans being cleared from the land
- j) Ashford Holiday Park; Highways agreed the access but the planning application has been refused

RC gave an update on the new joint Local Plan. It has been agreed by the Inspector and adoption by both councils is imminent

5. Minutes of Policy & Consultation Committee. The notes of the P & C meeting of 31st August, 2018 had been circulated. The Forum agreed them.

6. Urgent Matters brought forward by the Chairman; TP discussed the Change.Org petition to save Appledore Shipyard. Concern that the shipyard has no new contracts.

7. Correspondence Received; TP had seen:-

- a) **AONB Draft Management Plan**
- b) Draft minutes from last Biosphere Reserve meeting
- c) Sarah Young's (WWF) "Perceptions of Marine Governance in North Devon"
- d) Exe Press Summer 2018

8. Agenda Items proposed for next Meeting; nothing forthcoming

9. Any Other Business: (short information items only)

PH – NTC is preparing its Neighbourhood Plan. Will send to Forum once finalised.

CH – the vessel previously mentioned as producing a lot of smoke recently has sunk. PL stated it was privately owned, has been refloated and the HA have given the owner notice to leave the harbour. If owners fails to do so, it will be removed.

CI – survey work is being carried out looking at bass nurseries. Juvenile bass are being tagged to monitor their movements.

10. Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings; AGM 21st Jan. 2019. 7.00pm at the Castle Centre, Barnstaple. TP to confirm venue

Meeting closed at 20:28