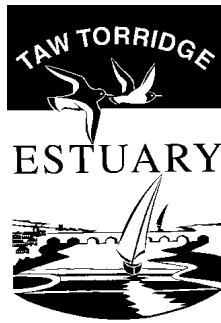


THE TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM



CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY:

Website: www.ttef.org.uk

MINUTES

of the General Meeting held on Monday, 15th April, 2019 at the Town Hall, Bideford.

Present were;

Tony Pratt (NDYC, Chair), John Breeds (Hon Member), Valerie deering (Appledore R.A. & Treasurer), Sandra Knight (Coastwise), Chris Hassall (Rolle Canal Soc.), Norman Briden (Devon Birds), Jan Szymankiewicz (Ashford P.C.), Trevor Johns (Bideford T.C.), Paul Dymond (T & T Wildfowlers), Lesley Burgess (Westleigh P.C.), Jan Whittington (WEBS), Sarah Young (WWF), Chrissie Ingle (ND Biosphere), Martin Batt (AONB), Tony Bown (Observer), Dave Jenkins (Observer), Richard Berridge (Environment Consultant).

Tony Pratt took the Chair.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence: TP welcomed newcomers to the Forum

Apologies were received from Rebecca Aston (NE), Niki Tait, Nigel Batley (RNLI), Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB). Jim Bell (YAG), Paul Labistour (BHM)

Welcome; Martin Batt (AONB V-C),

2. Minutes of Previous TTEF Meeting: Monday, 21st Jan. 2019 (circulated) these were accepted as a true record without amendment.

3. Presentation on Recreational Use & Bird Disturbance on the Estuaries by Richard Berridge.

TP thanked Richard for a most interesting and detailed presentation. Discussion followed on how best to follow up the problems raised. Education and signage were important. Perhaps the Biosphere should take a lead. Pamphlets might be provided for local vets and the Dogs' Trust.

4. Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes:

(a) Estuary Report: Including:

Report from Bideford Harbour Master (PL); Unfortunately Capt. Labistour was unable to attend and had sent no report. If received TP would circulate.

Houseboats & Liveaboards; another has appeared & disappeared below Anchor Wood Bank

Appledore Instow Ferry; TP reported that the new season started with the new boat with funds provided by Leader 5 ND Plus. boats were blessed on 13th April. Old boat "Misty Blue" is for sale.

Salt water Ingress to Braunton Marsh; Horsey Island was now up for sale and was now virtually all developing saltmarsh.

Speeding on the Estuaries; there was nothing further to report at present.

c) **Update on the Marine Pioneer Programme** Chrissie Ingle reported on the "Creation of Saltmarsh Project".

(b) North Devon's UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve: Chrissie Ingle reported that the April Newsletter was now available and that talks would be given by Andy Bell in May. Chrissie also mentioned the Taw Valley Facilitation Fund, the "Woods for Water" project and the continuing Estuary Project, now in its 5th year.

(d) North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership: unfortunately Jenny has been unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report; the main news is that the new AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 is now adopted by the three local planning authorities and is available on the AONB website. It is slightly stronger on the Setting and a priority action is to research extending the designation to cover the full heritage coast designated area – so more of the estuary.

See link <https://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk/about/management-plan-2019-2024>

(e) Northam Burrows; currently there appears to be no immediate problem with the tip.

(f) Update on "Perceptions of Marine Governance in North Devon" by Sarah Young of WWF. Sarah outlined her work on finding out who to talk to about marine planning, there being some 40 plus organisations involved. She was also interested in who WWF might help to manage the estuaries. She mentioned the "Waste Shark" currently operating in Ilfracombe.

(g) Richmond Dock; Val deering reported that there were endeavours to get the dock registered as a Community asset which would see it protected for 5 years.

(h) Foreshore below Leisure Centre: nothing further could be added about this.

(i) Any other matters arising. There were none.

4. Planning, Consultations etc, including:

a) Housing at Yelland, Development nearest to B3233 proceeding with a wide link to the Tarka Trail. The power station site is still in consultation.

b) Housing in Appledore; Fairview. The 6 flats overlooking the Skern is still in consultation.

c) Housing in Northam.Wooda/Pitt Hill is still in consultation.

d) Website. Progress; TP was now uploading more info.

e) Brunswick Wharf some drilling has been undertaken but apparently the developers have "one legal matter" holding things up.

f) Horsey Island; still up for sale and now all a developing salt marsh.

g) Democratic Correspondent; no one had any information.

h) Golf Club application to move greens from flood risk area onto landfill was not opposed and is still in consultation.

i) Seabreeze Caravan Site; this has been refused.

j) Meeting with Paul Jury; TP had been asked by Mr. Jury for a site meeting. This took place. TP told him we'd already opposed the application. Paul gave me a tour and said he'd been trying hard to increase shipping without success.

5. Minutes of Policy & Consultation Committee. The notes of the P & C meeting of 1st Feb. 2019 (circulated) were adopted.

6. Urgent Matters brought forward by the Chairman; there were none not so far covered.

7. Treasurer's Report. Val asked for any further subs to be sent to her ASAP.

8. Correspondence Received;

a) Thames Estuary Partnership Film Vote

b) Marine Planning Newsletter, April.

9. Agenda Items proposed for next Meeting; A speaker from the Power Station Development

11. Any Other Business: (short information items only). Chrissie Ingle mentioned the National Capital Plan,

12. Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings; July 15th ,Oct. 21st & Jan. 20th , 2020