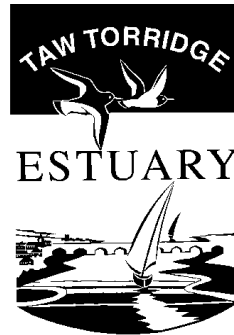


THE TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM



CHAIRMAN:

SECRETARY:

Website: www.ttef.org.uk

MINUTES

of the General Meeting held on Monday, 15th July, 2019 at the Castle Centre,
Barnstaple

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), Trevor Johns (Bideford T.C.), Paul Dymond (T & T Wildfowlers), Lesley Burgess (Westleigh P.C.), Jan Whittington (WEBS), Steve Mulberry (AONB), Jenny Carey-Wood (AONB), Andy Bell (NDBR), Mel Parker (NE), Niki Tait (RNLI), Laurence Shelley (Northam Town Council), Dale Hall (Ashford PC, Observer), Mike Moss (Ashford P C Observer), Paul Labistour (Bid. Harbour Master), Jim Bell (YAG), Dave Jenkins (Observer), Tony Bown (Observer),

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), Nigel Batley (RNLI), Sarah Young (WWF), Cllr Graham Bell, (Braunton P.C.), Chrissie Ingle (Bios), Rebecca Aston (N.E.) Shooley Mccall (IPC), Peter Hames NTC)

TP would write letters of thanks to the following retiring reps; Rodney Cann, Simon Brown, Alan Rennles. Brad Bunyard and Jasmine Chesters.

2. Minutes of Previous TTEF Meeting: Monday, 15th April, 2019 (circulated) These were accepted as a true record without amendment.

3. Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes:

(a) Estuary Report: Including:

Report from Bideford Harbour Master (PL); Capt. Labistour reported that various boats had been removed from Brunswick Wharf but no progress has been made on other liveaboards on the estuaries. There were also problems with the removal of wrecks, mainly due to the difficulties of establishing titles to land deeds. He confirmed that there would be no "Harbour Revision Order". He agreed to report the transactions of the Forum to the new Harbour Board. Towers of "houseboats" have been warned and there could be reports to the MCA. He agreed that a log of speeding "offences" would be useful. TP agreed to organise this and would contact NDYC, the Ferry, Gig Clubs, ARA and other interested parties. Capt. Labistour would check with DCC on the by law covering wreckless activity. He hoped to set up a Bideford Harbour Users Group to which TTEF would be invited. He was also looking into the future of moorings on the Torridge.

Houseboats & Liveaboards; another has appeared and moved from below Anchor Wood Bank to near Pottington and again to near the Leisure Centre.

Appledore Instow Ferry; TP reported that a new engine was being purchased for the older boat and that passenger numbers were up on last year.

b) North Devon's UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve: Andy Bell presented a written report from Chrissie Ingle and highlighted the main points which were; i) the biosphere has a new Chair, Prof. Mel Austin.

- ii) there are draft plans for a longer term solution to the Instow's sand problem,
- iii) there was a new model for Natural Flood Management for the next 100 yrs.
- iv) AB has been looking at Bird Disturbance with NE. could TTEF offer some funding?

b) Update on the Marine Pioneer Programme Chrissie Ingle sent a written report. The main points were;

- i) UK Seas are looking to host an event about the sustainable finance workstream,
- ii) SWEEP will be leading a workshop to see how nature can be incorporated into the Sustainability Appraisal for strategic plans,
- iii) There are now leaflets on the Saltmarsh Project, marine Natural Capital Plan and the Geodatabase,
- iv) there are films from UK Seas to be launched in September.

(c) North Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership: Jenny reported on;

- i) the Environment/habitat map,
- ii) A request to NE to extend the AONB boundary to include all of the Heritage Coast. This was held awaiting the publication of the Glover Report,
- iii) the plan to hold 60th Anniversary celebrations, including a boundary relay,
- iv) a small grant given to the "Waste Shark" project.

(d) Northam Burrows; There was ongoing confusion in the press and elsewhere between erosion at the tip and at the golf course. At the former there seemed to be no problem currently while there was continued erosion at the latter. Long term managed retreat was still the plan and NE were encouraging tip excavation by TDC. The Northam Burrows Forum website was being updated.

(e) Richmond Dock; Appledore Maritime Trust have been trying to get the Dock listed as a ACV. TTEF has supported this but this has been rejected by TDC. The way forward seems to be to find a use for the dock. There are parties interested in doing this. TP to write to TDC supporting this.

(h) Foreshore below Leisure Centre: A report on the development of the new leisure centre has appeared in the local press.

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

4. Planning, Consultations etc, CH reported on this;

a) Housing in Appledore; i) Pitt Lane. This was ongoing. The owner of adjacent land is objecting to the plan for 130 houses., on the grounds that it does not make provision for future development and so is contrary to the Local Plan.

ii) Hubbastone Rd. Outline planning for 5 houses has been refused.

iii) Fairways, Torridge Rd. Application for replacement of old bungalow by 6 flats has been permitted in spite of objections by TTEF, CPRE & Northam town Council. this will encourage further development along this section of the Skern.

b) Pony Field, Instow; work here has started in spite of failures in the system for wild life protection

c) Royal North Devon Golf Club; an application to move outer greens onto the landfill site is still ongoing.

d) Website. Progress; there was no interest from members to help in developing this.

e) Brunswick Wharf ; nothing further is currently known.

f) Bird Disturbance Report ; TP reported that there was some delay over release of report. Mel Parker of NE said it should be issued soon. It was agreed that TTEF might contribute financially to any physical recommendations made.

g) TP thanked Paul Dymond for bringing forward the Exe Code of Conduct.

h) Horsey Island; Still up for sale. Councils were to cost actions on recommendations made. The coast Path people were aware of the situation.

i) Crab tiling & Bait digging IFCA Reports now available on their website.

j)

5. Minutes of Policy & Consultation Committee. the notes of the P & C meeting of 5th April and 17th May (circulated) were adopted.

6. Treasurer's Report; VD mentioned that the next meeting of the Harbour Board was on 1st Aug at 2.30 and that TDC was working on signage re tides.

7.Urgent Matters brought forward by the Chairman; the lack of a Secretary was still a problem.

8. Correspondence Received;

- a) Third International landscape Day 20th Oct
- b) Press Release re Exe Habitats
- c) Papers from Bios. Meeting last week
- d) Reminder from NDC re the need for planning permissions/new tracking procedure/enforcement procedures
- e) Updates re starlings in Bideford from Rob Durrant
- f) Updates re asbestos at Yelland – Joanne Bell
- g) Request from Phd Student re “Natural Capital Approach” I said yes but have heard no more.
- h) Survey on Special Places in North Devon

9.Agenda Items proposed for next Meeting; there were none.

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

12. Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings; Jan. 20th, 2020