

TTEF CONSULTATION & PLANNING COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

MEETING; Friday, 5th June, **2.30pm** Venue; Beechfield Centre, Fremington

WELCOME & APOLOGIES;

Present: Tony Pratt, John Puddy, Jeff Needham, Eric Evans

Apologies: Sue Prosper

1. MINUTES OF Friday, 27th March, 2026 (Circulated).
2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES; Accepted by the meeting.
3. URGENT MATTERS ARISING; Replacement of Secretary; Eric Evans co-opted in as secretary for the Forum. **Action: EE and TP to meet** separately as a handover of the secretary role.
4. PLANNING MATTERS;
 - a. "A Plan for Northern Devon" consultation. TDC and NDC are in the process of creating a new joint local plan as the current plan ends in 2031. The scoping consultation is due to be 30th June - 11th August. As more information becomes available we will continue to review it as well as encourage our membership to make their own comments.
5. FINANCE
 - a. Current Balance £2519.70
 - b. Income £5.50 (contribution to refreshments)
 - c. Outgoings £150 (secretarial and hall bookings)
6. OTHER MATTERS ARISING
 - a. Action reports;
 - i. Estuary Strategy Update - Document is online (https://www.torridge.gov.uk/media/28623/Torridge-Estuary-Strategy-2025-2030/pdf/Torridge_Estuary_Strategy_2025_-_2030.pdf?m=1779105907973) but we have heard nothing further as an organisation. **Action: TP to follow up with Chris Fuller.**
 - ii. TP had a meeting with Peter Lawrence from the Crown Estates as well as Chris Fuller.
 1. Mooring removal - Rumour heard that there was a plan to remove all moorings and install permanent, managed moorings. Both have said there are no plans for this.
 2. Crown Estates leading wreck removal - Crown have surveyed the wrecks in Fremington Pill with a view to removal and have started a process for removal. They have also taken over the process for removal of "Vagabond" which is damaging the bank it is alongside.
 3. Wreck survey extension - Crown estates have requested that we survey the estuary below the MHW line before

October with the aim of creating a top 10 targets for consideration of removal. There is an existing template for how to survey wrecks discovered, view raised that the current template was probably too complicated for the initial survey. **Action: TP to allocate areas of the estuary to forum members** within their areas of interest to ensure the whole estuary is covered. Primary concern is for GRP wrecks or those that are an environmental or navigational hazard. A simple template was shared for the collection of data. Concern raised: for those undertaking a survey, is there an arrangement of insurance cover? Do we need to identify who has liability for those surveying the estuary? **Action: TP to investigate**

4. Trust Ports - Crown Estates are in general supportive of Trust Ports but the initiative must come from local authorities.
 - b. P & CC Venues - Decided that we should maintain the Beechfield Centre as the venue for all TTEF meetings.
 - c. Taw and Torridge River Champions - now have a committee organised with positions filled, financials and insurance set up and started to build links with associated groups.
 - d. Bideford Port Update - The Harbour Board has now had a change of chair and the HM has resigned. Options for HM replacement are being investigated by the Harbour Board.
 - e. Main meeting speaker - Navantia will be the meeting speaker for the July TTEF meeting. Navantia will be talking about their operations. We thank them for their contributions.
7. Any other matters arising.
 - a. TTEF Constitutions - We currently have co-opted members and have a very small number of Honorary members. Currently there is no place within the constitution for the existence of honorary members of the forum. **Action: JN to consult on whether we need to make adjustments to the constitution** which gets addressed annually in January.
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Northern Devon Plan - As above, more to be published as information becomes available.
 - b. Harbour Code – The aim of this voluntary code of conduct is so that the same practices and rules can be adopted across all of the estuary. Meeting is generally in support of the code of conduct with a few minor comments. **Action: Any comments to be sent to TP asap** so that a comment can be sent in on behalf of the TTEF next week.
 - c. Peter Hames. After a long service with the TTEF, Peter will no longer be representing Torridge District Council within the forum. Peter Sawyer will now be representing instead. We thank Peter Hames for his service and representation over many years.
 - d. Between the Moors survey - The Devon Wildlife Trust are starting a new

project and would like to hear views on the area between Exmoor and Dartmoor. Surveys close on June 8th. More details here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/218329996191162/posts/1714849483205865/>

9. A.O.B

- a. Refreshments - For the main meetings of the meeting, refreshments are organised by the TTEF. There has been an e-mail to say that all cups etc need to be dried and put away before we leave the venue. The view is the current system is not working and needs reviewing. Proposal for a move to disposable compostable mugs to make it easier. **Action: JN to investigate pricing** for compostable mugs etc.
- b. Communication with members - A request for details of the main speaker to go out with the agenda. **Action:EE to include.**
- c. TTEF voice and mandate - A discussion was had about the nature of the TTEF and its ability to comment as an organiser of a collective of organisations. While we have a significant voice and mandate from our member organisations, we need to continue to be careful to ensure that views we express are actually representative of the views of our member organisations. It was noted that there is a route for organisations to have more input via a representative permanently sat on the P&CC who would be grateful for the support of this group.
- d. Appledore Trust Port Meeting - Meeting was very well attended. There was a strong feeling against the proposal but very limited opportunity for those in favour of the Trust Port to comment due to the way the meeting was managed.

10.NEXT MEETING;

- a. Main meeting - Monday 20th July
- b. P&CC - Friday 31st July 1430. **Action JP to book** the Beechfield Center.

11.Meeting Closed.