



THE TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

CHAIRMAN:

Tony Pratt,
9, Arthurs Lea,
Abbotsham,
Bideford,
07814 692008
tonytopsail@outlook.com

SECRETARY:

Eric Evans
ttef.secretary@gmail.com

Website: taw-torridge-estuary-forum.org

Draft Minutes

for the July Quarterly Meeting to be held on Monday, 20th July, 2026, the Beechfield Centre, Fremington, EX31 3DD at 7.00 p.m.

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for absence.

a. Present:

Tony Pratt (TTEF/NDYC),
Jeff Needham (TTEF),
Eric Evans (TTEF)
Anne-Marie-Eveleigh (Earth Action North Devon),
Brian Hopkins (Bideford Sustainability Group),
Chris Dee (WeBS),
Dave Brain (Environment Agency),
David Dixon (Fremington Parish Council/ Barnstaple Gig Club),
Debbie Fraser (Devon Wildlife Trust),
Elizabeth Dee (North Devon Council),
Helen Cooper (Save Our Sands),
Helen Sheard (Bideford Sustainability Group/Fordwoods Steering Group),
Jon Pavitt (Navantia),
Kay Tudor (Braunton Resident),
Ken Hind (Bideford Town Council),
Mark Haworth Booth (Westcountry Rivers Trust),
Mary Breeds (Braunton Countryside Centre),
Mike Moss (Ashford Parish Council),
Peter Sawyer (Northam Town Council),
Richard Haste (Torridge District Council),
Robin Shrubsole (Coastwise North Devon),
Sally Ramsden (Taw and Torridge River Champions),
Sue Prosper (Love Braunton),
Susan Smith (Bideford Town Council),
Tony Bown (Independent),

b. Apologies:

Chris Fuller (Torridge District Council),
Dominie Dunbrook (North Devon Council),
Jack Phillips (Braunton Small Boat and Angling Association),
John Puddy (Fresh Spring Trust),
Lisette Martin (Appledore RNL),
Martyn Bennett (Deputy Harbour Master),
Natural England,
Paul Brown (Bideford Harbour Master),
Penny Mills (CPRE Devon)
Ray Turner (Devon Birds),
Roger Levick (Westleigh Parish Council),
Rose Day (TTEF HM),
Tara Jenkins (North Devon Council),
Tim Jones (Devon Birds),
Tristan Otten (Torridge District Council),
Wendy Lo-vel (Torridge District Council),

2. **Guest Speaker; JOHN PAVITT on “Navantia Appledore - Current Projects and work to look forward to”.** The speaker started by detailing the long history of the work of the shipyard in Appledore. The list of craft built there was shown as long and often involved several boat types being produced together over a period of time and interestingly many are known to be still operating today. Now there is a big programme of work for the MOD which involves building a section of ship which will be transported by barge to another site after completion. The current owners are now a big part of Appledore and employ many apprentices who are locally sourced as are many of the other staff as the company wishes to support the local area.

The TTEF would like to extend a huge thank you to John for a very interesting and engaging talk. If you would like to speak to us about an estuary based topic or an exciting new development in your organisation, please do get in touch.

3. **20 Minute Refreshment Break (Opportunity for Networking)**

4. **Minutes of Previous TTEF Meeting: Monday, 20th April, 2026** (Circulated)
- a. Minutes proposed as an accurate record of the last meeting by Mark Haworth-Booth, seconded by Ken Hind, carried by the meeting.

5. **Treasurer’s Report**

- a. Balance, £2490.20
- b. Income, £5.50 (Donations for refreshments)
- c. Expenditure, £129.50 (room hire and small items)

6. **Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes:**

- a. No matters arising.

7. **Reports; these are available in full on the TTEF website. Reports given during the meeting are short updates or amendments/additions to the full reports.**

- a. Planning & Consultation Committee.
 - i. P&CC would like to continue to support the Estuary Code of Conduct which is evolving and will be brought to a future meeting.
 - ii. TP met with Crown Estates and Torridge District Council to make a plan for the removal of wrecks which are on Crown Estate land. They have begun with a collection of small GRP boats from Fremington Pill which have already been removed. They are due to begin work breaking up Vagabond of the Sea next. Our contribution will be to survey the estuary for vessels that are considered to be wrecks providing the Crown Estates with a top 10 list of wrecks for removal. We are hugely excited about this development and the progress that has been made on this issue.
- b. Appledore Instow Ferry - Circulated
 - i. Some downtime this year due to very high tides and Amber weather warnings. The committee are working on a plan to manage Amber weather warnings going forwards.
 - ii. They have now carried their 300,000th passenger.
- c. Devon Wildlife Trust - Circulated
 - i. There is some money available that could potentially be used for advertising for volunteers. All organisations are struggling for volunteers. A piece will be added to the TTEF website.
- d. WeBS
 - i. Autumn migration has now started.
 - ii. Always looking for more volunteers to support bird surveying to ensure there is always full survey coverage. Please contact WeBS if you can help.
- e. Formation of Trust Port
 - i. Torridge District Council are struggling for time and resources to make a harbour revision order. Research is continuing to discover the history and evolution of authority over the areas of the estuary.
 - ii. All of the other rivers in our potential Unitary Authority area have Harbour Revision Orders in place, there may be more opportunities to continue to drive a Harbour Revision Order in our area when this happens.

- f. Taw and Torridge River Champions
 - i. Sally explained how the organisation was formed. They are working to build Citizen Scientists surveying the vast area that is covered by the Taw and Torridge Estuary.
 - ii. By testing the water quality AND building a community they are hoping to drive enthusiasm for consistent testing and championing the quality of the water in the estuary.
 - iii. Volunteers are being sought to increase the capacity of TTRC in their work. There are a range of events that will raise profile and will hopefully also raise the much needed volunteers. The main event is on Saturday 12th September at Arlington Court.
- g. Coastwise
 - i. Several events have already taken place with more surveys scheduled for the future.

8. Matters Arising from the TTEF Minutes not covered above.

- a. None raised.

9. Urgent Matters brought forward by the Chairman;

- a. Fishermans Wharf Consultation - ends on the 4th September. Please do review the documents and make your own comments as well as letting us know so that we can also help to represent your views on behalf of the TTEF.
- b. A plan for Northern Devon Consultation - ends on the 11th August. Please do review this and consider making your own comments as well as letting us know so that we can also help to represent your views on behalf of the TTEF.

10. Agenda Items proposed for next Meeting;

- a. Speaker needed for October

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

- a. Save our sands - White Cross consultation - sharing information as widely as possible. Including but not limited to the use of chemicals for weed control - Lots of information on Save our Sands and Love Braunton websites.
- b. Earth Action North Devon - Tarka Trail clean up 18th September - Looking for businesses and organisations to clean up sections of the rivers edge from Chivenor to Fremington. The hope is that working with businesses will help build understanding of environmental concerns and issues..
- c. Bideford Sustainability Group - Peoples Emergency Briefing - there is a developing concept for generating energy as a community. See the report circulated and on the TTEF website.
- d. Bideford Fair - 8th August - some gazebos still available if you would like one for your organisation. Contact Claire in Bideford Town Council for more.
- e. It has been found that errors around Tree preservation orders have been made. These have been reviewed and a stage 2 complaint will now be being made.
- f. If you would like your event publicised as a member organisation with the TTEF, please just contact Chris to get these added to the TTEF website on webmaster@taw-torridge-estuary-forum.org
- g. Tony Bown - Urged the meeting to do all that can be done to work in an environmentally responsible way emphasizing the changes to our weather locally and globally as an indicator of the need to do as much as we can.
- h. There is lots going on at the Braunton Countryside Center with a range of activities and walks to take part in. Please check the website and come to support.
- i. There is a walk at Kenwith with Devon Wildlife Trust led by Rose Roberts on 21st July.

12. Dates and Venues of Forthcoming Meetings:

Monday 19th October 2026, Monday 18th January 2027. (AGM)