

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**

**THE WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**Minutes from the Meeting of The Wash East Coastal Management Strategy  
held on Thursday, 10th March, 2016 at 10.00 am in the Council Offices,  
Valentine Road, Hunstanton**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor B Long (Chairman)	-	Borough Council
Councillor R Bird	-	Norfolk County Council
Edward Davey	-	Hunstanton Clifftop Residents
County Councillor J Dobson	-	Norfolk County Council
Maria Fountain	-	Snettisham Parish Council
Peter Frew	-	Environment Agency RFCC
Alan Gillings	-	Borough Council
Mike McDonnell	-	CIC
Andrew Murray	-	Hunstanton and District Civic Society
Mark Robinson	-	CIC
Dave Robson	-	Borough Council
Michael Ruston	-	Hunstanton Chamber of Trade
Tim Venes	-	Norfolk Coast Partnership
Michael Williamson	-	Heacham Parish Council
Councillor Avril Wright	-	Borough Council

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**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Ray Harding  
Peter Jermay  
Councillor I Devereux

RSPB

Rob Lucking

Environment Agency

Jen Woodward

Fresh Produce Consultancy Ltd

David Norman

NFU East Anglia

Rob Wise, Environment Adviser

## 2 INTRODUCTION (CHAIRMAN)

The Chairman, Councillor Long welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Those present introduced themselves.

## 3 MINUTES FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 15TH OCTOBER 2015

The minutes from the meeting held on 14 October were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

- Item 6: Page 5: The section of the Promenade from the Green to the power board ramp had an expected life of between 3 to 50 years (should read 30 to 50 years)

## 4 MATTERS ARISING

- Page 3: Norfolk County Council Officer presence at Forum meetings. The Chairman, Councillor Long reported that he had received notification that NCC officers would no longer be attending the Forum meetings. Norfolk County Councillors were extremely disappointed. A separate meeting would be held with the three Norfolk County Councillors to discuss a delegation approaching NCC Management Director to express the Forum's dissatisfaction. County Councillor Dobson concurred with the comments made by the Chairman **AGREED: The Chairman, Councillor Long to send a letter on behalf of the Forum expressing the disappointment of no NCC officers attending future meetings.**
- Page 3: Terms of Reference: D Robson reported that the structure charts which showed which organisations were responsible for the different aspects of the Strategy and how the various project groups related to each other had been published on the Website and undertook to circulate the links to the Forum. <http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=27873>
- Page 8: Planning Permissions: The Chairman, Councillor Long explained that the Coastal Concordant was into consideration when determining temporary planning applications. It was explained that the Supplementary Planning Guidance was in addition to the LDF Policy. The Coastal Concordant would be replaced by Supplementary Planning Guidance in the future. Once the Supplementary Planning Guidance had been agreed between the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk and the Environment Agency, a copy would be circulated to the group.

## 5 UNIT A (CLIFFS) UPDATE

The Forum was provided with an update of the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy Workload chart circulated at the meeting. A copy is attached as an Appendix to the minutes.

Tim Venes informed those present that Adrian Reed had indicated that there may be photographic evidence available regarding the erosion of rocks at the base of the cliffs in Hunstanton and had spoken to P Jermey at the Borough Council. A Gillings explained that he had spoken with Mr Reed and explained that his comments would be looked at and would form part of the PAR report.

Following questions regarding the tidal lagoon, the Chairman, Councillor Long advised that this would now not be going ahead.

In response to questions from the Forum, D Robson provided an overview of how the consultants would be appointed and their findings would present options for consideration which would include costs. D Robson explained that it would then be necessary to prepare a report for consideration by the Borough Council's Management team. It was explained that a public consultation exercise to explain to the Consultant's findings.

Following questions from E Davey regarding monitoring undertaken, D Robson explained that monitoring exercises were carried out and that ever kilometre was measured in certain areas along the coast. E Davey commented that it be useful for the Forum to see the results of the monitoring exercises in order to judge the rate at which the cliffs were receding. Peter Frew explained all Environment Agency Data was available on their public assessable CCO website (Channel Coastal Observatory). Those present were advised that a cliff survey would be carried out in the future.

In response to questions regarding cliff trigger points, D Robson explained that this information would be included in the PAR and that currently there was no active intervention planned up to 2055, however, it was appreciated that this could change.

Peter Frew explained that RFCC had agreed a programme which had included funding for the Project Appraisal Report. He commented that the Borough Council was undertaking the project in the correct way, a stage at a time when money became available. The monitoring work being carried out by the Environment Agency and subsequent data was available on the website.

Andrew Murray commented that Adrian Reed may had ideas of how to slow down the erosion and that he was keen to carry out specialist studies to see how far the rocks had gone out to sea.

**AGREED: Link to RFCC monitoring data be included on the Stakeholder's Webpage on the Borough Council's Website.**

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**UNIT B (PROMENADE) UPDATE**

The Forum was provided with an update of the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy Workload chart circulated at the meeting. A copy is attached as an Appendix to the minutes.

A Gillings informed those present that a monitoring exercise to ascertain beach levels was undertaken on a monthly basis. It was noted that the levels varied and that the alarm would be raised if necessary. A Gillings reported that there had been a 1 metre variation in levels between June and August 2015.

In response to questions regarding the repair works, D Robson advised of the following potential timeline:

- 2016/2017 – Void Repairs.
- 2017/2018 – Blockwork and sealant repairs.
- 2019 – Resurfacing of the Prom.

The Chairman, Councillor Long explained that RFCC operated a six year capital programme. He explained that the above works had not been included in the current fid round, but would potentially be available in the next tranche of funding in 2021, but highlighted that there was no certainty. The Chairman added that if schemes were “shovel ready”, on some occasions in order to take up the slack, money could be brought forward.

Following comments from Councillor Wright regarding the use of consultants, the Chairman, Councillor Long explained that neither the County Council or the Borough Council had qualified officers to undertake the necessary works, therefore specialist advice had to be bought in.

Peter Frew stated that Norfolk as a whole was low down on the priority funding list as it competed with places like Bournemouth, Blackpool, etc and seaside resorts had bigger erosion problem than Norfolk. Officers did their best to fund projects and highlighted the importance of shovel ready projects as the priority funding list often changed and therefore other projects brought forward accordingly.

Following comments and questions from Councillor Bird, the Chairman emphasised the importance of larger local contributions to achieve the last part of the funding required.

The Chairman, Councillor Long explained that in order to get the best funding opportunities it was dependent upon those present and added that it was paramount to obtain Norfolk County Council Officer input.

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**UNIT C (SOUTH HUNSTANTON TO WOLFERTON CREEK) UPDATE**

The Forum was provided with an update of the Wash East Coastal Management Strategy Workload chart circulated at the meeting. A copy is attached as an Appendix to the minutes.

D Robson tabled a flyer – Local Sea Defences, Your Role in Their Future.

M McDonnell provided an update on CIC, a summary of which I set out below:

- No written request from Norfolk County Council or the Borough Council had been received regarding the finance of the CIC.
- Current balance of CIC was £134,000.
- Commitment still awaited from Park Resorts
- Detailed information required from the Environment Agency to support the business case.
- Information awaited from Environment Agency regarding licence rationalisation.
- Only cost incurred to date by CIC – £7.50p bank charge.
- Meeting with Sir Henry Bellingham, MP and Liz Truss MP – to discuss potential surcharge of £15 being introduced for flood defence purposes (as Somerset had introduced).
- Somerset Model be piloted if legislation permitted to allow flood prevent works (levy being introduced).
- A good relationship had been built with the Environment Agency
- In the long term - suggestion to create a model for a 5 year programme.
- All caravan parks to pay £50 per plot – compulsory payment for local sea defences.
- Opportunity to present to Central Government.
- Contributions towards the cost of sea defences were paid to the Borough Council who held the money in a ringfenced account.
- Reserve required for emergency situation.

Councillor Wright thanked M McDonnell for the work he had done with CIC and commented that Hunstanton was a good holiday resort which attracted a significant number of tourists and asked whether a road toll/levy could be introduced. In response, M McDonnell stated that he had thought about a toll but it was impractical and explained that current legislation did not permit such a toll.

Councillor Bird referred to the Somerset Project and commented that if it was adopted, a working group should be set up to review Norfolk's option to join the scheme and introduce a household levy. However, he added that this would not cover caravans and would require a lot of work.

M Ruston commented on the voluntary contributions made to CIC and that it was his understanding that if people made a contribution it would result in a binding commitment for a period of time. In

response, M McDonnell explained that it was an annual contribution.

Councillor Dobson commented that it was clear why NCC had withdrawn officer involvement. He thanked McDonnell for the work he had carried out to date.

The Chairman, Councillor Long explained that much of the first year's funding had been raised. He advised that there was no mandate to make the contribution compulsory. The Chairman referred to the Somerset model and commented that it would be disappointing if the Somerset model could not be used for the whole country to introduce a levy.

Following comments and questions relating to funding for caravans, Peter Frew explained that there was no value in terms of the appraisal, but the amenity value could be used. D Robson explained that the tourism/amenity had been used.

D Robson informed those present that the planned works had been delayed until after the March high tides.

## 8 **FUNDING GROUP UPDATE**

D Robson provided a verbal update, a summary of which is set out below:

- Funding in place for the current year.
- Next year funding would be provided CIC.
- 5 year Business Plan – unlock 25% - 75% local funding.
- Business Case required by end May 2016.
- Environment Agency would lead on contract. Borough Council would hold the CIC in a ring-fenced account.

A Murray asked if the voluntary contributions qualified for gift aid. In response, M McDonnell explained that if businesses showed a receipt for the flood defence work to their accountants, the amount could be taken off the bottom line.

## 9 **COMMUNICATIONS/WEBSITE**

D Robson provided an update as set out below:

- Proof of the Poster now available and once agreed would be circulated/displayed on the seafront, post offices, libraries, Parish Councils.
- A copy of the leaflet (which was tabled) also to be agreed and circulated. The Forum was invited to forward any amendments direct to D Robson. A leaflet drop would take place in July 2016 (beach bungalows).
- Drop in Sessions arranged for week commencing 30 May 2016 at Snettisham, Hunstanton, Heacham – North and South Beach. News Release would be issued to promote the sessions.
- Payment system to be available on Borough Council's website.
- Borough Council's website had been updated with the new information. The link would be circulated to the Forum.

In responses to questions and comments regarding business rates and beach huts, the Chairman, Councillor Long undertook to obtain the relevant information from the council tax section at the Borough Council.

**AGREED:** Any amendments to the poster/leaflet/website to be forwarded to D Robson.

10                    **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 13 October 2016, 10 am at the Valentine Road Council Offices, Hunstanton.

11                    **APPENDIX WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY WORKLOAD**

**The meeting closed at 11.54 am**

## Wash East Coastal Management Strategy Workload

Area	WECMS Policy	Work	Start	Notes	Status
Unit A Hunstanton Cliffs	Up to 2025 – NAI 2025 - 2055 – NAI 2055 – 2105 – NAI / HTL	Develop PAR as part of wider Beach Management Plan for Unit's A & B	March 2016	Draw up Tender Engage Consultant June/July	WIP
		Cliff Survey	June 2016	Work to start June 2016	Pending
Unit B Hunstanton Prom	Up to 2025 – HTL 2025 - 2055 – HTL 2055 – 2105 – HTL	Complete void repairs	Dec 2015	Appoint Contractor April 2016 Works start mid May/ June Finish Mid July	WIP
		Develop Beach Management Plan	March 2016	Draw up Tender Engage Consultant June/July	WIP
		Emergency Repairs	As required	If required	On going
		Monitoring of beach levels	On going	Beach levels monitoring being carried out	On going
		Prom Repairs – blockwork	Tbc	FDGiA application pending	Pending
		Prom Repairs – sealant repairs	Tbc	FDGiA application pending	Pending
		Prom resurface	Tbc	FDGiA application pending	Pending
Unit C South Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek	Up to 2025 – HTL 2025 - 2055 – HTL/MR/NAI 2055 – 2105 –HTL/MR/NAI	Funding Group	On going	Group is active Funds are being collected	WIP
		Engagement Plan 2016	Jan 2016	Engagement to Start Mar 2016 to Sept 2016	WIP
Stakeholder Forum	N/A	6 monthly engagement meetings with Stakeholders	On going		WIP

NAI = No active intervention  
 HTL= Hold the line  
 MR = Managed retreat  
 PAR = Project Appraisal Report  
 FDGiA = Flood Defence Grant in Aid  
 WIP = Work in Progress  
 Tbc = to be confirmed