

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

THE WASH EAST COASTAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
STAKEHOLDERS FORUM

**Minutes of the Meeting of the above held on Thursday, 30th March, 2017
at 10.00 am in the Meeting Room, Valentine Road, Hunstanton**

PRESENT:

Councillor Ian Devereux	-	(Chairman) Borough Council
Paul Bland	-	Heacham South Beach Owners Association
Simon Bower	-	Snettisham Parish Council
Edward Davey	-	Hunstanton Clifftop Residents
County Councillor John Dobson	-	Norfolk County Council
Peter Frew	-	Environment Agency RFCC
Peter Jermany	-	Borough Council
Mark Johnson	-	Environment Agency
Andrew Murray	-	Hunstanton and District Civic Society
Dave Robson	-	Borough Council
Rob Wise	-	National Farmers Union
Michael Williamson	-	Chairman, Heacham Parish Council
Councillor Mrs Avril Wright	-	Borough Council

		<u>ACTION</u>																														
1	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from:</p> <table><tr><td>Councillor Richard Bird</td><td>-</td><td>Borough Council</td></tr><tr><td>Paul Burrows</td><td>-</td><td>Environment Agency</td></tr><tr><td>Maria Fountain</td><td>-</td><td>Snettisham Parish Council</td></tr><tr><td>Estelle Hook</td><td>-</td><td>Norfolk Coast Partnership</td></tr><tr><td>Councillor Colin Manning</td><td>-</td><td>Borough Council</td></tr><tr><td>Mike McDonnell</td><td>-</td><td>CIC</td></tr><tr><td>Andy Millar</td><td>-</td><td>Natural England</td></tr><tr><td>David Norman</td><td>-</td><td>Heacham North Beach</td></tr><tr><td>Mark Robinson</td><td>-</td><td>CIC</td></tr><tr><td>Tamara Rowson</td><td>-</td><td>Natural England</td></tr></table>	Councillor Richard Bird	-	Borough Council	Paul Burrows	-	Environment Agency	Maria Fountain	-	Snettisham Parish Council	Estelle Hook	-	Norfolk Coast Partnership	Councillor Colin Manning	-	Borough Council	Mike McDonnell	-	CIC	Andy Millar	-	Natural England	David Norman	-	Heacham North Beach	Mark Robinson	-	CIC	Tamara Rowson	-	Natural England	
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2	<p><u>INTRODUCTIONS</u></p> <p>The Chairman, Councillor Devereux welcomed everyone to the meeting. He explained that he was the Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Environment.</p>																															

	Those present introduced themselves.	
3	<p><u>MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u></p> <p>The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record, subject to Edward Davey being added to the list of attendees present.</p>	
4	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>There was none.</p>	
5	<p><u>UNIT A UPDATE (CLIFFS)</u> (Page 7)</p> <p>A document outlining the Wash ECMS workload was circulated to those present and is attached.</p> <p>An update on Unit A was provided and the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Beach Management Plan proposals had been presented to the RFCC for local levy funding. The RFCC had awarded £60,000 and the Borough Council would contribute £20,000. • The Beach Management Plan would cover the Cliffs, the Promenade, the Groynes and Beach. • An 'invitation to tender' document was currently being produced and would be sent round within the next month. • Once a contractor had been appointed, more details would be available on timescales but it was hoped that the final Beach Management Plan would be available by the end of the year. • The Beach Management Plan would include surveying and trigger points for intervention. Those present were reminded that The Wash ECMS Policy was no active intervention for the next fifty years. The trigger point would be determined as a measurement from the road which would trigger the necessary intervention. • As part of the Beach Management Plan, pilot projects would be carried out to determine the best way to intervene once the trigger point had been reached. • Comments were made regarding concrete hexagon defences and netting and those present were informed that a variety of options would be looked at as part of the Beach Management Plan. • Peter Frew confirmed that the funding was still available and Mark Johnson agreed to send the relevant approval forms to the Borough Council. 	

	<p>AGREED: (i) Mark Johnson to forward approval forms to Dave Robson and Peter Jermany for completion. (ii) Dave Robson to provide an update on the Beach Management Plan at the next meeting.</p>	<p>MJ DR</p>
<p>6</p>	<p><u>UNIT B UPDATE (PROMENADE)</u></p> <p>An update on Unit B was provided and the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Groynes and Promenade would be included in the Beach Management Plan. • The Beach Management Plan would also determine when a recharge was likely to be required. • The Chairman explained that it was important to integrate all activities if possible, including improving amenities and enhancing areas. The Beach Management Plan could be a useful tool if future opportunities were available to bid for funding. • Andrew Murray reported that some of the padlocks on the flood gates were rusty. Dave Robson explained that he was aware of this issue and several different padlocks had been used, but they all rusted. Resort Services regularly checked the padlocks and would replace them as required. • Dave Robson informed those present that a different procedure was now in place on when to close the flood gates. The flood gates would be closed whenever there was a flood warning or alert issued from the Environment Agency. Residents could sign up to receive flood alerts through the Environment Agency’s website. • Following the tidal surge in January 2017 there were some repairs required to the Promenade. Work was ongoing and due to be completed before Easter. • Monitoring of the beach levels continued on a bi-monthly basis. 	
<p>7</p>	<p><u>UNIT C UPDATE (SOUTH HUNSTANTON TO WOLFERTON CREEK)</u> (Pages 8 - 9)</p> <p>An update on Unit C was provided and the following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update from the Environment Agency would be circulated to the Group. • The Business Case had been approved and had been amended to cover a 15 year period. The benefit of this was that funding had been secured over a longer period. 	

- The annual recycling work had now been completed.
- It was likely that there would be a funding shortfall over the 15 year period and ways to meet the shortfall were being investigated.
- A publicity event had been held with the Chairman of the Environment Agency and Local MP to publicise the recycling works.
- In response to a question, Peter Frew explained that representatives from different regions met to share ideas and look at what other areas were doing.

County Councillor Dobson raised concern that he had not been invited to the publicity event. He referred to Parish Council contributions and Borough Council funding. Dave Robson confirmed that the Borough Council had contributed a third of the cost last year along with the RFCC and Norfolk County Council Coastal Fund. Those present were also reminded that the Borough Council were responsible for Unit A and B and the Environment Agency were responsible for Unit C. The Borough Council had supported the work for Unit C by providing officer support and arranging meetings etc. The Borough Council also made a contribution to the annual works of £5,000.

County Councillor Dobson felt that pressure should be put on Norfolk County Council to be involved in the project. He reminded those present that Norfolk County Council had previously been involved, but had now said that it was not within their remit and responsibility. Norfolk County Council had also not endorsed The Wash ECMS. He stated that Norfolk County Council should be contacted and this group demand that an officer attend the Stakeholder Meetings. The Chairman explained that contact had been made with Norfolk County Council and their response had been previously circulated to the Stakeholders Forum. County Councillor Dobson stated that Councillors should be contacted instead of officers.

Michael Williamson informed those present that he had received an email from Norfolk County Council outlining their position and he agreed to circulate it to the Group (as attached).

Mark Johnson informed those present that RFCC local levy funding was sourced from County Councils, so Norfolk County Council had supported the RFCC and subsequent funding projects.

Those present discussed the current Government Policies in place and the position of Parish Councils.

Those present were informed that there were Shoreline Management Plans in place to cover the whole of the Coastline. The Wash ECMS covered a part of the coastline included in The Wash Shoreline

	<p>Management Plan. Those present were informed that the Shoreline Management Plan had been endorsed by Norfolk County Council, however, The Wash ECMS had not.</p> <p>AGREED: (i) The update from the Environment Agency to be circulated to the Stakeholders Forum. (ii) The Chairman to contact Norfolk County Council to see if a representative was available to attend the next meeting. (iii) Representatives from the Environment Agency to provide an overview of the Shoreline Management Plan, including details of when it was next due for review, at the next meeting.</p>	ID
8	<p><u>FUNDING GROUP UPDATE</u></p> <p>Dave Robson reminded those present that the Funding Group comprised of the Borough Council, CIC, Environment Agency and Anglian Water.</p> <p>Details of the CIC contributions were provided to the Group. Recycling works for this year had been covered by contributions from all parties.</p> <p>The Group discussed voluntary contributions and how all residents could be encouraged to continue to contribute in the future. Other ways to generate funding were also discussed.</p> <p>Dave Robson referred to a letter received from DEFRA which detailed potential Parish Council contribution arrangements and the relevant Parish Councils had met to consider the contents of the letter. Parish Councils had responded to reject the concept and request a meeting with the relevant officers.</p>	
9	<p><u>COMMUNICATIONS PLAN</u></p> <p>The Chairman informed those present that a Communications Plan would be prepared as required and he welcomed suggestions from the Group on publicity.</p> <p>Dave Robson explained that information was available on the Borough Council's website. The Environment Agency had also published a press release during the recycling works. The Funding Group were in the process of producing a newsletter, which would be circulated to the Stakeholder Forum once available.</p>	
10	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>(i) Future Stakeholder Meetings</p>	

	<p>Edward Davey requested that in future, an update be provided as part of the Agenda, in advance of the meeting, so that Stakeholders could prepare questions and hold detailed discussions at the meeting. The Chairman agreed that a short narrative be prepared to accompany the workload document, and this be included with the agenda for the meeting.</p> <p>AGREED: Officers to provide an update report with the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p><u>(ii) Norfolk County Councillors</u></p> <p>The Chairman referred to the forthcoming County Council Elections. He thanked the County Councillors, who may not be standing for re-election, for their valuable contributions to the Forum.</p> <p><u>(iii) RFCC</u></p> <p>The Chairman informed those present that the RFCC were looking for four new members. More information on the role and how to apply was available on the Environment Agency Website.</p>	
11	<p><u>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Tuesday 17th October 2017 at 10.00am in the Meeting Room, Valentine Road, Hunstanton.</p>	

The meeting closed at 11.30am

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 OBC with MP below	Nov 2016	LL App submitted Dec 2016 £60K funding awarded Draft ITT doc being drawn up Confirm LL Bid April	WIP
		Drone Cliff Survey	June 2016	Work completed June 2016	Completed
Unit B Hunstanton Prom	Up to 2025 – HTL 2025 - 2055 – HTL 2055 – 2105 – HTL	Complete void repairs	Dec 2015	Contractor selected May 2016 Works completed June 2016	Completed
		Develop Management Plan Develop OBC	Nov 2016	LL App submitted Dec 2016 £60K funding awarded Draft ITT doc being drawn up Confirm LL Bid April	WIP
		Emergency Repairs	As required	If required	WIP
		Monitoring of beach levels	On going	Beach levels monitoring being carried out	On going
		Prom Condition Survey	May 2017	Determine if any further works required	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 CIC is collecting funds Funds are being collected	WIP
		Engagement Plan	tbc	tbc	Pending
Stakeholder Forum	N/A	6 monthly engagement meetings with Stakeholders	On going		WIP

NAI = No active intervention

HTL= Hold the line

MR = Managed retreat

OBC = Outline Business Case

PAR = Project Appraisal Report now OBC

FDGiA = Flood Defence Grant in Aid

LL = Local Levy

WIP = Work in Progress

Tbc = to be confirmed

Rebecca Parker

From: Michael Williamson <mtw7344@aol.com>
Sent: 30 March 2017 13:53
To: Rebecca Parker
Cc: Cllr Ian Devereux
Subject: FW: WASH EAST COAST FLOOD DEFENCES

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Rebecca

As requested by Ian here is a copy of the email from Tom McCabe which I read to the meeting this morning for inclusion in the minutes

Kind regards

Michael
Michael Williamson
Chairman Heacham Parish Council

From: McCabe, Tom [<mailto:tom.mccabe@norfolk.gov.uk>]
Sent: 24 March 2017 16:49
To: Michael Williamson
Cc: Chenery, Michael; bird, richard; Brown, Graham
Subject: RE: WASH EAST COAST FLOOD DEFENCES

Michael,

As promised, a more detailed response to your email of the 22 March.

I can confirm that the Borough Council has responsibility for coastal erosion and the Environment Agency the responsibility for coastal flooding. Norfolk County Council has no statutory responsibilities regarding the management of coastal flooding or erosion. This view is arrived at following a thorough and clear review of the County Council's powers and duties under the relevant flood and coastal erosion risk management legislation.

Norfolk County Council is however the Lead Local Flood Authority for Norfolk with the responsibility for managing local flood risk (often referred to as flash flooding). With over 34,000 properties currently identified as being at risk from flash flooding and with a further 6,000 new houses being proposed every year, the county is facing a huge task to reduce the existing level of local flood risk and prevent new properties from increasing flood risk through inappropriate development.

With regard to the funding arrangements you highlight it is worth noting that the rules governing flood and coastal erosion risk management funding are set by central government. Based on these rules the relevant flood "Risk Management Authorities" (RMAs), in this case the Environment Agency and the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, have concluded that costs associated with the schemes and the benefits to be derived from them, are such that they cannot be funded by the DEFRA Grant in Aid alone (central government funding). Therefore in order to be delivered third party "partnership" funding is also required. This view is a matter for EA and the Borough Council to respond on.

I hope this clarifies the position of the County Council.

Kind regards. Tom

Tom McCabe
Executive Director
Community and Environmental Services
01603 222500
tom.mccabe@norfolk.gov.uk
Norfolk County Council
General enquiries: 0344 800 8020
or information@norfolk.gov.uk
www.norfolk.gov.uk