

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Annual General Meeting 2020

Alderton Village Hall, Saturday 14th March 2020, 10.00am

MINUTES

Present: Clare Terrell, Richard Clarke, Rob Gold, Jim Wyllie, Paul Ross

Committee: Nick Crick, Brian Johnson, Bill Vaudrey, Christopher Langley, Andrew Rouse, Chris Ray
Jenny Webb

Item

1. **Welcome** by Chairman P.N.O. Crick
2. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the AGM of February 23rd 2019 were approved
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising
4. **Treasurer's report:** C Langley reported figures below.

£

Income	00.00
Expenditure	<u>300</u>
Surplus	3,746
Brought forward (previous years)	<u>11,365</u>
C/F	£15,111

5. **AOB-** None

6. **Chairman's Review of 2019-20:**

His PowerPoint presentation can be seen at <http://bawdseycoastalpartnership.org.uk/>

- Last year's issue was emergency works
- This year's - SMP (Shoreline Management Review)
- Terminology: HTL, (Hold the Line) MR, (Managed Retreat) NAI (No Active Intervention)
- Two vulnerable locations – Slaughden and East Lane

- Slaughden complete – MR but in fact Managed Resilience
- Bawdsey – Need to Understand Boundaries
- Unit 16.5 – Hollesley Bay, Unit 16.4 East Lane Point
- Issue: rock has been placed in 16.5 – Natural England believes this is wrong
- Final version of Phase 1 Report from Jacobs received June 2019. Discussed at meeting 4th June. To be found on CPE (Coastal Partnership East) web site
- Four possible viable approaches identified:
 - Approach 1 NAI both units
 - Approach 2 HTL both units
 - Approach 3 HTL - East Lane, MR - Hollesley Bay
 - Approach 4 Managed realignment both units
- Initial conclusions:
 - At East Lane there is little need to do any significant work in the near term (next 20 years), but holding East Lane point into the longer term will require further works, with two possible options:
 - hold a beach, but this is technically difficult and very expensive, or
 - significant improvements to revetment.
 - There is, however, a need to address risk of flooding to the north of East Lane (Hollesley Bay): here there is already a significant risk of breach, which has required extension of works into this policy unit. This risk is anticipated to continue. Measures to address this include:
 - continually extend the defences northward, but beach loss likely and there would be a significant impact on the designated site
 - maintain a beach through structures, but nourishment likely to be required therefore expensive, plus there would be an impact on the designated site
 - managed realignment – either large scale (wetland) or set back: this is a possible longer-term solution.
 - However, there are significant uncertainties over coastal processes and impacts; therefore, phased approaches could be explored further which allow time for monitoring, more detailed evaluation and planning.
- A lot of time elapsed, partly because of elections etc. Several drafts were prepared for the ToR for a Phase 2 study. Then the next CSG (Client Steering Group) meeting took place on 4th March 2020 – 9 months later.
- It was decided to recommend that the SMP policy should remain unchanged. It was important, however, that a carefully planned programme of monitoring should take place at various crucial points on our piece of coast. This would be undertaken by the community, under the supervision of Bawdsey Parish Council. CPE will organise for them to be professionally advised as to how this should be carried out.
- At this meeting, the following text was approved for submission to the SCF:

At a project meeting on 4/3/2020 the Bawdsey SMP policy change group concluded no change to the existing policies which are HTL for East Lane Point and MR for Hollesley Bay. It was

emphasised that policy headline statements are not sufficient to convey the complexities of a site such as this.

It was agreed that for ELP the current policy of HTL was underpinned by a long-term direction of travel toward MR and that subsequent management actions should reflect this. The project will therefore close at stage 1 not advance to stage 2. This is contrary to the report given to the 13/06/19 SCF meeting. The SMP Policy Review Group will now disband.

The project meeting agreed to review monitoring actions for the frontage and for there to be further discussions with the community on their potential involvement in data gathering.

There was discussion on how the future risk of a breach in the clay bank to north of ELP would be managed and the potential impacts on conservation sites of a continuation of recent practice. NE sought further studies to inform their advice to EA if / when the need arises for EA to intervene.

- The above was ratified by the SCF Suffolk Coastal Forum) on 9th March 2020.
- Meanwhile, PGL has plans to reinforce the sheet piling protecting their cliffs but are having to carry out an EIA before this can be commenced.
- The cliffs to the north of their sheet piling have collapsed, as have the cliffs immediately to the south of Martello W.
- The EA engineer explained that he did not consider a breach was imminent, but if it occurred, he would invoke emergency works. He also pointed out that, in his opinion, MR referred to the shingle beach and that the clay wall would be protected. CPE (Coastal Partnership East) may have some other options in mind.

Nick announced his decision to stand down from his role as Chairman and hoped that a replacement could be found asap. He favoured collaboration with communities faced with similar problems.

7. **Comments/ Questions from the floor:** These included corroboration about the extent of coastal erosion including the stretch from the Scottish Power landfall site to Martello W where cliffs have been badly eroded, land falls have occurred and trees have fallen on to the beach. Chris Ray gave a vote of thanks to Mr Crick for all his work over the past few years.

9. **Address by Paul Hayden**, Senior Risk Consultant for the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. His talk was entitled **Local Decisions in the Context of a Changing Climate**.

- Paul highlighted the difference between weather and climate. Weather relates to meteorological changes from year to year and climate relates to weather over thousands of years
- He began by illustrating the impact of climate change on sea levels in a global context. Key research is taking place by teams of the British Antarctic Survey highlighting the causes of sea level rise.
- He explained the causes of sea level rises, a combination of ice melting and thermal expansion from below.
- The challenge will be to adapt to these inevitable changes. It was vital to make the correct choice between aggressive mitigation or “business as usual”

- Planning is based on a sea level rise of 1 metre
- Sea level rises are not uniform and can be regional rather than global with some countries being more vulnerable than others. Storm surges can result in vertical land motion
- This creates a dilemma for decision makers. (reference to Sizewell C) There is a need to deliver long-term strategies that are unpopular in the short term and may face resistance from locals. Current decision-making and financing approaches could make it difficult to deal with the issues
- A concept of **Adaptive Pathways** has been formulated with a Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience with new international approaches to tackle the effects of climate change
- There could be impacts on food and water, ecosystems and extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and storms- resulting in mass migration, wars over water and other resources and the rise in fragile states
- Enhanced adaption and preparedness work is needed together with early warning systems. More money should be spent on capital infrastructure to build resilience in communities such as building shelters against storm surges
- Financing adaption and risk mitigation interventions is key
- **LOCAL DECISIONS: New Regional Flood and Coastal Committees with a Chair appointed by the Minister, persons appointed by or on behalf of constituent authorities and 8 people appointed by the Environment Agency.**
- **Anglian (Eastern) one for our area from North Norfolk to the Thames Barrier**
- Adaptive approaches needed which can be more flexible rather than an “all or nothing” approach. Need to build 20 years’ resilience into areas, giving communities time to adapt.
- Communities have to be sustainable and community flood action groups should be involved in decision-making along with risk management authorities, local authorities and local business and industry
- In order to do this, it is important to know the funding streams available
- New Thames Barrier to be built by 2070
- Conclusion is that working in local partnerships is vital to support the coast as a whole, including the sea, river and estuary. Each region has different specific challenges.
- Three key threads are Visibility, Funding and Traction.

Paul may make his PowerPoint presentation available if you contact him at phayden38@hotmail.com

The Chairman of Bawdsey Parish Council told the meeting that the council along with the Deben Estuary Partnership intend to mount camera posts to monitor the Deben estuary. Attendees agreed with Paul Hayden’s conclusion of the importance of collaborating with communities facing similar problems.

The Chairman gave Paul Hayden a vote of thanks for a fascinating presentation