

Bawdsey Coastal Partnership Annual General Meeting 2019

Alderton Village Hall, Saturday 23rd February 2019, 10.00am

MINUTES

Present: James Mallinder (Hollesley PC), Mary & Paul Tomlinson, Chris Mann, Clare Terrell, Richard Clarke, Judith Rose, Alison Andrews (A&OEP), Joan Brookes, Sue van der Meulen, Rob Gold, Peter and Mary Wain, Sarah Lucas, Allan Douglass (Dumb Boy Cottage), Robert Bean, Gerry Matthews, Christine Block (DEP), Juliet Johnson,
Committee: N. Crick, Brian Johnson, Anne Page, Andrew Block, Bill Vaudrey, Christopher Langley, Andrew Rouse, Jenny Webb

Apologies: ??

Item

1. **Welcome** by Chairman P.N.O. Crick. Andrew Block took the Chair for Election of Officers.
2. **Election of Officers:**
 - i. Anne Page proposed Nick Crick as **Chairman**, Seconded by Christopher Langley. Duly elected.
 - ii. Anne Page proposed Jenny Webb as **Minute Secretary**, Seconded by Nick crick. Duly elected.
 - iii. Nick Crick proposed Christopher Langley as **Treasurer**, seconded by Anne Page. Duly elected.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of the AGM of March 10th 2018 were approved
4. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising
5. **Treasurer's report:** C Langley reported figures below.

	£
Income	5,000
Expenditure	<u>954</u>
Surplus	4,046
Brought forward (previous years)	<u>11,365</u>
C/F	£15,411

6. **AOB- None**
7. **Chairman's Review:**
 - Progress this year has been slow but positive.
 - BCP has concentrated on building a better relationship with the statutory authorities – IDB, EA, SCDC, Suffolk Coast Forum - without whom we cannot obtain approval for any scheme.

- The prompt current response from the Environment Agency to carry out emergency works on the rock revetment is, we hope, an indication of the progress made in this direction.
- My personal objective is to reach a consensus between all parties as to the best approach for coastal protection in the medium term (say 50 years)
- The Suffolk Coastal Forum, which has the ultimate decision-making power, has decided to review the Shoreline Management Plan in two places on the Suffolk Coast – Slaughden and East Lane, Bawdsey. Work on Slaughden is well advanced, though a final policy has yet to be agreed. Work now commencing for East Lane.
- Jacobs have been appointed to identify the practical options and produce a comparison between them. They are determining indicative costs and conducting an impact appraisal. This work will be completed at the end of February. They will then begin to draft the report. The first draft will be completed by the end of March and will be reviewed by the SMP policy review group which includes the BCP and Bawdsey Parish Council.
- Their comments will then shape the second draft for review by the Suffolk Coast Forum in May with their comments forming part of the final draft report presented at the Forum meeting in July.
- At this stage the Suffolk Coast Forum will be asked for approval for progression to Stage 2 of the review which will include environmental impacts and assessment.
- We have, of course, our report from Barber/Tindle last year which was agreed by the EA to be a possible solution which would work.
- We in the Bawdsey Coastal Partnership are committed to *Holding the Line* at East Lane unless and until substantial evidence suggests change is necessary. The sea wall can be, and has been, repaired as necessary. At East Lane, it withstood the great surge of 2013 without damage. Valuable farmland, attendant businesses, other businesses and homes are protected by the sea wall, as are up to four Grade 2* Martello Towers, enjoying the protection of Historic England. We will therefore await the outcome of these further studies before expressing any further opinions.

8. Comments/ Questions from the floor: There were none

9. Address by Cllr Andy Smith entitled *The impact of Local and National Policy on the Coast:*

Cllr Smith first congratulated BCP for getting the Shoreline Management Review on the agenda. He explained his background which consisted of 34 years of experience in coastal policies as Cabinet Member of Coastal Management for SCDC, EA- appointed Coastal Representative, and a member of SCDC for Felixstowe.

In his PowerPoint presentation (see <http://bawdseycoastalpartnership.org.uk/>) Cll Smith explained which bodies are responsible for coastal policy. **(See slides 1-12)** SCC is the lead **Local Flood authority** and SCDC is responsible for **Coastal Erosion**. On 1 April SCDC combines with Waveney DC to become the new East Suffolk Council, the largest in the UK. **Other active bodies are Coastal Partnership East** comprising four councils managing our stretch of the coast from Landguard Point to Kings Lynn and **Coastal SIG (Special Interest Group)**. **SIG's role within local government** is to represent and champion the collective interests of coastal, estuarine and maritime communities. It has been a great success with 65 members and is the most proactive coastal group in the country.

Funding streams for coastal protection (Slides 14-15): Coastal Erosion and Flood Management have different funding streams. The former is managed by local government and the latter is managed by Defra, funded by central government via the Environment Agency. Funding for flood and coastal resilience is challenging in the present financial climate; **hence the need to find alternative innovative ways of funding coastal protection. (Slides 16-20)**

The four principles for FCERM (Flood and Coastal erosion risk management) are a Wider Funding Base, Coastal Adaptation, Partnership Building and Innovative Funding. There needs to be an increased recognition of **Economic Value** and the need to protect **Critical Infrastructure**.

2019 will be a critical year. (Slides 21-26) A 25 year environment plan 2018 was put in place by Michael Gove, pulling together lots of aspects into a core plan. However Brexit is causing the development of key policies to be postponed including the EA FCERM's own Strategy Plan 2050 and DEFRA/ FCERM Policy Review and a Fairer Funding Review by HMG /Treasury /DEFRA which affects many funding streams.

Meanwhile the Climate Change debate is hotting up. (Slides 26-27) Cllr Smith expressed the view that it would be a mistake to separate the twin challenges of flood and coastal erosion risk management. We should be looking at developing climate-resilient places; it is not just houses that have to be protected from the sea but also infrastructure, including sewage and power plants under a **Flood and Coastal Change Management scheme**. There is now a consensus for a need to plan for sea level rises of approx. 0.9m during the next 80 years up to 2100.

CONCLUSION: Coastal Management is now at the heart of DEFRA and EA thinking which is a huge step forward and to be welcomed. However, there are still many "unknowns". A slide juxtaposing an OS map of Bawdsey in 1805 with a modern one showed the extent of coastal erosion over the past 200 years.

The Chairman gave Cllr Smith a vote of thanks.

A few questions were asked referencing the Barber/Tindle document commissioned by BCP which recommended the construction of groynes to provide stability and prevent scouring at the ends of the rock revetment at East Lane Point. This should feed into the latest SMP review being undertaken by Jacobs. The current policy at East Lane is to Hold the Line. The value of historical assets such as the Martello Towers came into question. Historic England could furnish an answer. The possibility of Private and Public Initiatives for flood defences was in the current Local Plan. The National Planning Policy Framework references Enabling Development as a means of funding coastal protection initiatives.