

Minutes of a meeting of the '**DINGHY PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**' which was held on **Tuesday 8th April 2014 at 7.00pm** in the Parish Office.

Present:- Edward Allen (Chairman), David Woodcock, Tony Faulkner, Alban Donohoe, Penny Wiles, John Sizer, (National Trust) & John Byfield. Also Jessica Fleming of The Landscape Partnership.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 0.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received & ***accepted*** from Roger Hall (*work*) & John Seymour (*stuck in traffic*).
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – *Parish Council Members only*; There were none.
3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** to appoint Mr John Byfield as the new **PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE** following the resignation of Steve Wiles. The Chairman welcomed John, who then joined the meeting and introduced the other committee members.
4. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** from the previous meeting, dated Wednesday 29th January 2014 are signed as a true record.
5. **ADJOURNMENT** – To allow for Public Participation was not required.
6. **WINTER WORKS** undertaken. This time around there was not much to do, as the storm had cleared the site for us. There is still the one boom, unclaimed, not certain about the laser found at Wiveton Hall. The chain from the park has been taken to Charlie Ward for storage, and we have tightened any remaining loose chains and there is nothing more we can do.
7. *To receive & consider* update and reports of the proposed **DREDGING WORK** and to agree the next steps:-

John Sizer from the **National Trust** reported that they were waiting to see the report as prepared by Halcrow and hoped that it may be available to them on the 9th April. The National Trust is looking at their own options for The Freshes also and is looking at the long term future.

The Clerk advised that a meeting of senior personnel from the Environment Agency, Norfolk County Council, North Norfolk District Council, the Local Enterprise Partnership, National Trust, and Norman Lamb MP, together with two representatives of Blakeney Parish Council had been arranged for Tuesday 22nd April, to discuss findings as prepared by Kevin Marsh from Halcrow, which would then be shared and consulted upon with local stakeholders and the wider community, as advised by the Environment Agency.

Page 119 (2013/14)

i) **Plans** – After 6 months and countless chasing, these have now been received. A survey drawing in respect of the survey work undertaken together with a sectional drawing indicating the proposed channel to be cut/dredged. Due to the workload internally, the production of these documents has been outsourced to Randal Surveys who undertake regular work for 'Land & Water', hence their reference on the drawings.

The volume of material to be removed from the channel can now be formally confirmed as being a total of 4996m³. As advised previously, the survey indicated that with a spread depth of around 500mm it would be possible to deposit circa 1500m³ of material on the area identified by the Dinghy Park Management Committee and the remaining material would require removal from site or to an alternative and agreed location.

David Woodcock, wished to put the following questions back to Mark Bayles, 'Land & Water'.

- 1) Could you fill the old channel with the material from this proposed work? The plans do not show this.
- 2) Where can we put the spoil, if we feel that the dinghy park itself is not suitable? The land on the East side of the bank? The gap between the bank and the duck pond, who owns it? Does the material go inland somewhere? Does it go out to sea?

Ultimately, the Environment Agency still has plans to make which could affect this, we really need to know where the home for the removed material would be. We would hope to know once the National Trust gets sight of the report from Halcrow.

- ii) We are unable to submit an application to the Marine Management Organisation for **Dredging Licence** at the moment until we know for certain where the dredged material is going to go.
- iii) Performance of The Land & Water Partnership **Consultants** has been extremely disappointing to say the least, which means that we have now missed the closing date for submitting a holding application for the dredging licence as the deadline was the 5th April 2014.
- iv) We will have to speak to Kevin Marsh at Halcrow about **Soil Disposal**.
- v) **Next steps** –
 - Given **John Byfield's** background as a now retired Consultant Civil Engineer, the members asked if he would consider from a technical point of view the plans received and walk the bank to see if any soil disposal could be used to rebuild the banks in his opinion.

Could the spoil go along the back of the sea wall or could it be used to fill the gap/breach near the dinghy park? Basically can it be used anywhere on site in a positive manner? John would not rule it out as a core material, it would in his opinion depend on what it is then protected with in terms of the outer covering. Could it be used to fill the area of the dinghy park which has been lost?

- **Jessica Fleming** referred to the 'Bathymetric Survey' which shows the 200m area in question, just north of Bridge Creek, which is very narrow at this point, as the sandbank is very high, hence the proposal put forward are due to a danger in navigation.

At Wells the dredged material is currently put to the side and does not seem to have moved back and they have created a berm which is underwater at high tide, but it is maintained. Kevin Marsh (Halcrow) thinks that the material could be used to build up the side of the banks and as already mentioned he is currently writing up a report.

Geo textile sausages filled with dried out material have been used in other places and Natural England are going to use his option in places. The Local Enterprise Partnership, New Anglia (re. Norfolk & Suffolk) are now getting lots of money, and if Tony can drop into conversation at all on the 22nd April, the fact that if the channel dries up, then so does Blakeney in many ways, then that would sow a seed.

The ultimate question to the Environment Agency is; Our project has spoil, can you use it?

John Sizer advised that this technique has already been used on the dinghy park at Brancaster, which means that it may be possible to use the material dredged on site, after it has been dried out. It may be possible to use it on the West site, and put the 'sausages' around the dinghy park and then infill it. In the meantime we should hold onto these thoughts and money and wait to see what the plans are and how we can all work together.

The Committee members present like the idea of the 'sausage' idea over the dinghy park.

The southwest side is outside of any current designations and the same material could go into the freshwater channels.

- Jessica will obtain a price for spoil samples as they need to know the size of the grains and whether or not it is contaminated, this needs to be done as soon as possible. We need a delivery date for this as we have been advised that the previous samples are now

out of date for organic testing. To confirm to Kevin Marsh that we want to be involved in any joint working with the Halcrow Group and the Environment Agency as Kevin is currently working on plans to address flooding problems in this area on a wider scale. This message will also be shared with the Environment Agency. It would seem that given the scale and diverse range of flood related issues that a joint approach would benefit all interested parties. Jessica will also ask Kevin to meet with her and the members of the members of this committee/the Parish Council.

8. *To consider any other* **MANAGEMENT ISSUES**.
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – This will be confirmed once we have received further information.

Meeting closed at 8.21pm.

Chairman _____