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Minutes of a meeting of the '**DINGHY PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**' which was held on **Thursday 24th September 2015 at 7.00pm** in the Parish Office.

Present:- Edward Allen (Chairman), Tony Faulkner, Neil Thompson, David Woodcock, John Seymour, John Byfield and Victoria Egan. Also District Cllr. Andrew Wells.

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 0.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received & ***accepted*** from Alban Donohoe (*work*) and from Penny Wiles.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – *Parish Council Members only* – There were none.
3. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the **MINUTES** of the meeting held on Monday 10th August 2015 are signed as a true record.
4. **ADJOURNMENT** – To allow for Public Participation was not required.
5. Update and reports on the proposed **DREDGING WORK** and to agree the next steps;
 - i) **Randalls survey** – (3 copies had been produced; Victoria Egan, John Byfield and Neil Thompson each took a copy.) The survey was undertaken late July, report and plan now to be considered by members. Randalls are hydrographic surveyors, and we asked them to check and up date the previous plans of the channel to see what changes had occurred. This they did, and they found an error in the earlier survey where they had plotted the survey which was carried out by Land & Water in early 2014. Hence the report and plan we have to consider now.

The recommendations of Daniel Leggett for the improvement of the designated section of the channel had been adopted and a copy was given to Randalls, who have plotted the design recommendations. This has been done for a very reasonable cost.

The surveys seemed to cause some confusion around the table. Some felt that the cross sections appeared to show dredged material being used to form a new embankment on the west side of the channel and there were a number of concerns regarding this as it would create other problems. Given the confusion Randalls should be asked to plot only the agreed dredged profile on the existing ground levels and not the infilling bankment line which is causing confusion.

The meeting was advised that Natural England would appear to be saying that the spoil cannot be placed on The Freshes, although the meeting understood that the idea was that the newly rebuilt sea defence bank, was designed to be overtopped with salt water on a relatively frequent basis and hence the nature of the area would be changing in any case. Victoria advised that The Freshes is still currently freshwater and that it obtained funding for this and the sea defence banks for the foreseeable future. The advice however, is not that we can't go with this site, it is questionable, but not to get held up with the site disposal as the timescales are moving on towards 2016 rapidly.

There were discussions about whether the spoil could go out in the harbour and be used on a mud bank or used to help channel the flow.

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the next step should be a site meeting as soon as possible as there are some concerns over the bed level and design level and whether this plan will achieve what we want it to. Also we need to confirm that the intention was for the whole of the dredged material to be removed from the site, which was the initial understanding.

David Woodcock will make contact with John Charlton to arrange this. There will be a cost, although his fees are considered to be quite reasonable. He will be asked if he can send a copy of his plans to Daniel Leggett who may have some observations and John is to be asked about calculating the amount of spoil to be excavated. Any other queries can be raised on site.

David Woodcock had been in touch with Charlie Ward, asking what they did with the spoil at Wells and Charlie had kindly responded to say that they had built a 'berm' to train the ebb tide and encourage it to scour and self dredge the channel. He had given more detail and the members were given a copy of the email correspondence. Charlie had also said that now that time had moved on, he would be happy to become involved with us again and offer any advice he could. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we accept his offer to join us as an additional official member of the committee.

- ii) **Questioning Costs** – David Woodcock and Victoria Egan have approached a number of organisations and are asked for plans each time. NNDC needed more information with regards planning, ie. where is the spoil going? The Crown Estate is the owner of this area and The National Trust are the owners of the area above the mean high water mark. The Crown Estate would want to charge us, whilst The National Trust would not. The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) would

give the licence for marine dredging, but they would also consider the disposal.

Edward Allen reminded the meeting that he had been contacted back in the summer by 'Exo Environmental Ltd', who are based at Summerhill House, 1 Sculthorpe Road, Fakenham, who had offered their services, claiming that they could possibly assist with the whole project including securing funding. It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we look to obtain references of their past and present work. Edward will look into this further.

- iii) **Funding Opportunities** – to consider the draft proposals on **Charging for use of the Dinghy Park** from the start of the 2016 season. Edward Allen and John Seymour to present proposals and updates.

The proposals had been shared with the Blakeney Sailing Club at their AGM, and were met with a mixed reaction. Some felt that it was just the BSC which was being targeted, which of course is not the case, as the Dinghy Park is open and free for anyone to use. A question was raised as to whether the Blakeney Harbour Association could make a small contribution and Neil felt that this was something that they should support in the future.

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that the draft document showing the charges as prepared on 11/08/2015 is adopted and that we take this forward. We should make it very clear to people that we are having to introduce charges in order to undertake future maintenance of the channel once we have undertaken the initial dredging. This will also assist us with other funding applications as it shows that we are helping to fund it ourselves. We could then undertake a review after the first year.

Linked in with this proposal is new signage, hence it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we revisit all signage on our next agenda, however in the meantime a simple version of the charging proposals to be made into a laminated sign to go on display as soon as possible and the Commodore of the Blakeney Sailing Club to be advised that we will go ahead.

- iv) **Funding** – Update from Alban Donohoe & Victoria Egan. With Alban not present we had no report from him, however Victoria, advised that everyone she spoke to wanted plans and some wanted permissions to be in place before they would consider accepting a funding application. The National Trust National Fundraiser had been speaking with Victoria and felt that this project would suit more local fundraising efforts, using social media and setting up a campaign, using Just Giving etc. FLAG are also looking for expressions of interest, and we did this a while back, but need to keep an eye on it.

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Other people in the locality were also showing an interest in supporting this project financially.

6. **OTHER MANAGEMENT ISSUES** – The Committee wished to express their sincere thanks to Neil Thompson for removing the old rusty steel barge which had sat in the quay for the past few years. Neil advised that next on the list was the old rope testing barge which sits at the end of The Cut.
7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – This will be a site meeting which David Woodcock will arrange.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman _____