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Minutes of a meeting of the '**JOINT DINGHY PARK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**' which was held on **Wednesday 25th November 2015 at 6.00pm** in the Parish Office.

Present:- Edward Allen (Chairman), David Woodcock, John Seymour (BSC), Tony Faulkner, Alban Donohoe, Neil Thompson (BPC) & John Byfield (Public Rep).

Clerk:- Tracey Bayfield.

Public:- 3.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received & **accepted** from Penny Wiles, Victoria Egan & Charlie Ward.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – *Parish Council Members only* - None.
3. It was **proposed & agreed** that the **MINUTES** of the meeting held on Thursday 24th September 2015 are signed as a true record.
4. **Public Participation** in relation to any item on the agenda.
 - Questions were asked over why there is a need to impose **charges** on those using the dinghy park in the future and if any thought had been given to raising the money via community events.
 - Concerns were raised over how the proposed dredging timeframe would have an impact on the production of mussels. Mark Randell & Willie Weston explained that The **Blakeney Harbour Mussel Society** (BHMS) still exists, even though due to the influx of sand they are not currently producing mussels for the table. The Society is still managing the 'Several Order' which allows them the management of 105 acres of Blakeney Harbour for shellfish production. Even during this non production period NNDC and Cefas are monitoring and testing the shellfish present as the Mussel Lays are currently classified as 'Fallow', not finished.

From 2016 they are returning to a monthly sampling regime with NNDC and will look to recommence mussel production at the earliest opportunity if conditions allow. They wish to remind the committee of their presence as any dredging works can cause a spike of ecoli carried in silt particles, which then filtered by mussels and coinciding with sampling, will cause a sample fail. Interestingly Cley PC had been told by Natural England to undertake their dredging works in March. They do feel that digging the material out as opposed to pumping will do less disturbance and are pleased to note that this appears to be the plan.

The Chairman advised that the spoil would not be going on the lower harbour, which had also been of concern. The BHMS asked to be kept in the loop. Cley are looking to take their material away by lorry, but we are talking a tiny volume in comparison and a completely different composite of material, hence this would not realistically be an option here.

5. Members received update and reports on the proposed **DREDGING WORK** and to agree the next steps;

- i) **Timing** – David Woodcock advised that our ‘window’ was set for October, which is the timeframe we have been given by Natural England, however listening to what has been said, it was ***proposed & agreed*** that we convey this to Natural England, and ask if our date can be moved to March, which would now mean March 2017.
- ii) **Randall’s survey** – as undertaken late July, report and plan now to be considered by members following the site meeting and updated plan which is dated August 2015. Members felt that it was not worth having the channel staked out at the moment, at a cost of around £500. Although Victoria Egan was not present, David said that she thinks that she could prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment.

It was ***proposed & agreed*** that we shall go with the base of the channel being at +0.23m AOD, and in a straight line. At the moment disposal options look like being straight over the very end of The Cut, between the end of The Cut and the Cley Channel, where the marsh is building up naturally in this area, and the MMO may be happy with this, as it would mean that the material is just being moved.

The following **Action Points** were ***proposed & agreed***:-

- *Ask Victoria Egan (National Trust) to start thinking about preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment, of the area of land just mentioned.*
 - *David Woodcock to speak to Natural England about the window being March 2017 as opposed to October 2016.*
 - *David Woodcock to start working on the Planning Application which will have to be submitted to NNDC.*
- iii) **Questioning Costs** – Nothing further to report.
 - iv) **Funding Opportunities** – Members were aware of the few responses received to the proposals on charging for use of the Dinghy Park from the start of the 2016 season.

A reminder that the need to raise money, is because we have already agreed that we will build in maintenance dredging every few years, 3 for example and that this could cost around £15k at a time. Whereas when it was last dredged, no maintenance work was ever built into the scheme or undertaken.

After careful consideration, it was **proposed & agreed** that following representations from a number of organisations and individuals, the Joint Management Group of The Dinghy Park have decided to defer the introduction of the proposed charge for boats using the Dinghy Park and to undertake a further consultation programme with the local community. Also that we produce a very simple questionnaire that goes out to the whole community (a page in the GVN which can be completed and returned), to those boat owners registered with us as users of the Dinghy Park, the Blakeney Sailing Club website, Blakeney Harbour Association Website and the Blakeney Parish Council website.

- v) **Funding** – There is no doubt that in order to raise money for this scheme, whether it be match funding or grants, then it helps if we have managed to raise some money ourselves.

Rob Young – Head of Economic & Community Development at NNDC has suggested that we may like to apply to the NNDC ‘Big Society Fund.’

Exo Environmental – Edward Allen had received some further information and David Woodcock will go and check them out.

6. WINTER WORKS ITEMS:-

- i) The Annual Carnser Clear up will be on Sunday 6th December.
- ii) 30 Day Notices and boat removal – Number of notices needed will be advised to the Clerk shortly.
- iii) Tie Down Chains – It was **proposed & agreed** that no new chains will be laid this time.

7. 2016/17 Budget Request – Blakeney Parish Council are preparing to budget for 2016/17, what sum does this committee require for the remainder of this year ie. to 31st March 2016 & for the year 2016/17 and for what purpose? It was **proposed & agreed** that given how much we have to do and prepare, that we put in a budget request of £5,000.

8. Members noted the current works being undertaken by the Environment Agency to the **Blakeney Freshes Outfalls** – i) To replace the current flap gates on the two sluices on the seaward side, ii) to replace the culvert lining

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for both sluices. Work is anticipated to take approximately 3 months and commenced on 9th November 2015.

9. Requests for **Winter Permits** were received and ***agreed*** for; Sylvia Leveté, & Matt Boreham and Victoria Holliday should she request one.
10. Other **Management Issues** – There were none.
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Wednesday 20th January 2015 at 7pm in the Parish Office.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Chairman _____

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