

ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

FINAL MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON THURSDAY 27th JUNE 2024 AT 6.30PM ON ZOOM

PRESENT:

Nominated representatives

Tim Beach (TB) Chairman	Cllr. Snape Parish Council
Tim Wilson (TW)	Cllr. East Suffolk Council (Rendlesham and Orford Ward)
Gary Wingrove	Cllr. Orford and Gedgrave PC and NOTT
Oliver Morgan	Cllr Tunstall PC
Edward Greenwell (EG)	ESWMB alternate
Alison Andrews (AA)	Alde and Ore Association
Frances Barnwell (FB)	Vice Chairman AOCF
Chris Gill	Treasurer AOCF

ADVISERS/ATTENDEES:

Giles Bloomfield (GB)	East Suffolk Water Management Board (ESWMB)
Jane Maxim (JM)	Alde & Ore Estuary Trust (AOET)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 2

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies:** Andrew Reid Cllr. Suffolk County Council; Julia Ewart Cllr. East Suffolk Council; Jocelyn Bond Cllr. Aldeburgh Town Council; Peter McGinity Chillesford Parish Meeting; Ben Coulter (repr. Butley, Capel St Andrew and Wantisden PC; Roger Dawson Hollesley PC; Harry Young Business Repr; David Kemp Environment Agency; Boyton PC rep; Alan Hutson Iken PC; Bill Parker Sudbourne PC; E Stanton AOET; Jane Skepper ESWMB Alternate; Ed Boyle Natural England.

2. Declarations of interest

The annual declaration of interest forms has been circulated to all representatives : a few still needed to be returned.

3. Minutes of the meeting on 21 March 2024

These were agreed.

4. Matters arising from the meeting on 21 March 2024 not otherwise on the agenda

Agenda Item 6: Iken Clay-TB said that, despite making enquires to Environment Agency, he had been told nothing by them. As the estuary community were effectively the injured party he would be making further inquiries with Phil Camomile to see if it was worthwhile pressing for more meaningful information.

GB said that the Crown Court hearing on the Iken Clay had been postponed from early July to December but that related only to paperwork, not the quality of the clay. The clay had been tested by ESWMB at least twice using successive methods required by the Environment Agency and had been cleared as being of the appropriate quality . ESWMB were now engaging with EA to change EA's current stance that the clay could not be used.

5. UPDATE –ROLL OUT OF UPPER ESTUARY EMBANKMENT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME

5.1 GB explained that he had just heard about possible delays in the start date for construction on the ground of Phase 1 of the Estuary project. Various issues had combined to slow progress including getting certain planning permission, changes to the national pumping station scheme, and consequential follow-on action all of which had delayed calling for construction bids. The worst-case scenario was that the whole programme might be moved on one year with work starting on the ground in Autumn 2025.

TB said that this very latest news on the estuary plan progress, essentially that the ground works might not start until 2025 delaying the whole project by a year, was disappointing. However, difficulties had been encountered in the past, had been faced and dealt with. He would explore with ESWMB and RFCC what could be done to ease the obstacles and how AOCF help could be used. JM asked that ESWMB also kept the Trust in touch as changes in funding would need to be taken into account in the funding plans. EG, supported by all, expressed thanks and sympathy to Giles for dealing with such a complex array of different requirements from so many schemes, from listed building, to pumping stations and flood defence generally.

-LOWER ESTUARY BUSINESS CASE

5.2 GB said that there would be a knock-on effect on the lower estuary but he expected the Outline Business Case to be submitted in the summer of 2025 and thereafter the technical case could be prepared.

5. RAMS (was Recreation Disturbance Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy, as of mid-June WildlifeWise)

TB explained that the scheme, involving CIL money and run by ESD and other district councils, aimed to manage recreational access constructively to reduce habit disturbance. At the recent Suffolk Coast Forum, it had been explained that the project had now been fully staffed and wardens were to be appointed. The scheme could be useful in the Alde and Ore Estuary area. He and AA had offered help if publicity or volunteers were needed from the estuary community.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1. JM reminded everyone of the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust's fundraising Flotilla on Sunday 28 July 2024 starting at 8 o'clock in the morning. It was taking place between Aldeburgh (Yacht Club) and Orford in the morning involving swimmers and paddle craft(board, canoe and rowing boats). It would be fun to watch and it would be great to have as many participants with many sponsors as possible- please encourage budding entrants who were advised to look on the Trust website to enter- www.aoctrust.org.uk
- 6.2. AA, on behalf of the Alde and Ore Association, explained that the Association were about to conduct the third of its series of 10 yearly studies of the economic value and worth of the Alde and Ore area, using the services of the consultants RPA who had assisted and were assisting ESWMB in preparing the economic cases for the estuary. The study could then be used as solid evidence of the value of the area in relation to grant applications for the estuary plan, particularly Phase 2 for the lower estuary, (the previous study had proved useful in preparing the upper estuary case). It could also be helpful when challenging developments and policies that might affect the estuary area. The study would be partly updating background details but a substantial part depended on a good response to a survey aimed at residents, visitors, businesses, wild life organisations and leisure activities. Might the AOCF email circulation list be used to spread the survey as widely as possible as the results would benefit the whole community. The Chairman confirmed views that this was appropriate.
- 6.3. Charles Croydon, speaking for Essex and Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Landscape, said he would forward to the Secretary an offer to landowners for assistance in developing environmental schemes.

Date of next regular AOCF meeting. Thursday 10 October at 6.30pm, place or zoom to be announced.

Note: subsequently changed to 24 October.

Alison Andrews AOCF

August 2024

Note: In early July, after the meeting, the ESWMB issued the latest in the series of updating newsletters on the “Upper Alde & Ore Estuary Embankment Improvements” and this was circulated to all recipients of AOCF papers and is on the AOCF website www.aocf.co.uk