

ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

DRAFT MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021 AT 6.30PM BY ZOOM

PRESENT: Nominated representatives

Tim Beach (TB) Chairman	Cllr. Snape Parish Council
Andrew Reid (AR)	Cllr. Suffolk County Council
Ray Herring (RH)	Cllr. East Coast Council
T-J Haworth-Culf (TJ)	Cllr. East Coast Council
Peter Palmer (PP)	Cllr. Aldeburgh TC
Andrew Cassy (AC)	Cllr. Boyton PC
Ben Coulter (BC)	repr. Butley, Capel St Andrew and Wantisden Parish Council
Peter McGinity (PMcG)	Chair Chillesford Parish Meeting
Colin Chamberlain (CC)	representing Iken PC
Frances Barnwell (FB Vice Chairman	Cllr. Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council
Niels Peterson (NP)	Cllr Tunstall Parish Council
Alison Andrews (AA)	Alde and Ore Association
Jane Skepper (JS)	IDB Board Member
Harry Young (HY)	Business Representative
Chris Gill (CG)	Treasurer

ADVISERS/ATTENDEES:

Giles Bloomfield (GB)	East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (ESIDB)
David Kemp (DK)	Environment Agency (EA)
Ed Boyle (EB)	Natural England (NE)
Jane Maxim (JM)	AOET

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 5

AGENDA

1. Apologies: Sudbourne PC

2. Declarations of interest

Representatives were asked to complete the annual Register of Representatives' Interests declaration of interest form and return it to the Hon. Secretary. **Action: All**

Harry Young representing the business sector said that he always needed to register his interest as his day job was at Snape Maltings.

3. AOCF Web site presentation

David Gillingwater, who looks after the web site, gave a presentation of the new approach to the AOCF web site using a new template programme with the aim of a fresher and more picture led approach. The current AOCF web site was based on the original AOEP one using the material that was there before but with a different brand colour. The new approach developed the new branding further by introducing the new styling using a header, footer which could change to meet new content and new branding colours. The new template provided a posting-led approach which meant that updating the content was easier and connected links were automatically generated making for a more active web site. He showed the new front page and examples of how other pages, e.g. 'What is being done', might be created and the scope the new template gave to have a more magazine aspect including introducing paralaxing, that is, background of relevant pictures with related narrative layered above it.

In relation to the page on 'emergencies' that was being updated, local emergency plans, such as that for Snape which was already posted there, could be posted here or links provided to the council websites. PP and TJ would seek the details for Aldeburgh Town Council and other parishes were invited to share their details. He was developing a Tides page so that regularly up-dated tide times and heights could be accessed for the most visited locations in the estuary.

Another advantage of the new system was that each page could be designed separately: to do this he could work on line with AOCB members interested in particular pages and use the template toolbox to create a new page as ideas were discussed and tried out. It was for all in the AOCB to provide the material with which DG could do the design/graphics to put it in place. In this way the complete update could be made in reasonable chunks over the next few weeks and thereafter updates could be easily made. Volunteers interested in the site or particular pages were asked to join in zoom meetings with DG and other Comms Group members. AR and TJ both thought it was looking good and offered to help.

The AOET said they would also work with DG to ensure the parts relating to the Trust were up to date which TB welcomed as the AOCB were very conscious of getting that right.

Responding to CC, TB confirmed that web site would be used to provide updates on how the Estuary Plan Project implementing works were progressing and that would of course involve the IDB, EA and Trust.

Action: volunteers to help with developing different pages- please contact Hon Sec

4. Minutes of the meeting on 17 September 2020

These were agreed without amendment.

5. Matters arising from the meeting on 17 September 2020 not otherwise on the agenda - None

6. IDB update on the Outline Business Case submission.

GB reported the good news that the economics appraisal has been agreed and technical scrutiny passed in relation to the Outline Business Case and have been signed off by the Environment Agency. The issue at present was the conflict between the signing off the whole Business Case and the ongoing investigation into clay stored at Iken. He could say no more on that. So far as getting works going forward they were limited in environmental surveys and appraisals they could do: with Covid restrictions on the construction industry and Snape Maltings being closed and were awaiting Environment Agency conclusions but strong representations were being made.

TB said the East Anglia's Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) budget, to be considered the following day, provided indicative budget lines for the upper and lower estuary. He commented that it was positive from a funding point of view that the emphasis the government were putting on resilience and Partnership funding was a track the AOCB had been on for some years. In relation to the Iken investigation he could say very little but pressure had been put on the Environment Agency by both the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust and the AOCB: to resolve the issues as quickly as possible he had written to EA as AOCB chairman explaining the difficult position the AOCB were in. He had received a holding reply. JS, as the local IDB chairman, said the matter had been raised at top ministerial level and had the full support of our local MP, Therese Coffey. TB concluded that for the time being nothing more could be done but, if a reply was not forthcoming reasonably soon, agreed that the AOCB could consider what might be the next steps to get the matter resolved. DK said a response would be forthcoming before too long.

HY said that the river defences for the Maltings had a grant from the Local Enterprise Partnership: if there was a way of making an announcement about the provision of the funding before the end of February that would be very helpful.

7. Communications- Report back from AOCB Comms Group. (Paper –Notes from Comms Group)

- i. **Update:** Noted the work on the web site and the development of the leaflet (next item). TB asked for a volunteer to come forward and lead the Communications Group.

Action: Comms Group leader volunteer needed

- ii. **Leaflet:** The Partnership considered the draft leaflet which Sharan Bleese, CPE, had kindly created using the material discussed at the last meeting. The aim was a document which would bring out the purpose and need for the Partnership and the Estuary Plan in a more exciting way. Was this the right format and was this the right time to put it out. It was agreed that it was difficult to decide whether to launch a new communication drive while the start of the implementation estuary project was on hold. The leaflet could certainly be provided to Parish Councillors first. It was agreed that if there was to be news soon from EA, then it would be good to get the leaflet in a state ready to go. It seemed as if the general approach of the leaflet was accepted and so representatives were asked to send in detailed comments and spotted typos to the Hon Sec.

Action: comments to Hon. Sec.

iii. **Officers to link with Parish Councils:** To build links with Parish Councils, TB said that officers had offered to attend Parish/Town Council, meetings but perhaps they might wait until there was news to be discussed. EA, NE and IDB might, if appropriate be invited to attend as well. This was agreed.

8. **Footpaths- update on coastal path and issues around repairing path surface on river defence walls**

FB said that she had contacted the Suffolk County Council Public Rights of Way department about the dire state of the path on the river wall downstream from the Orford Jetty. There had in the past been an apparent block to dealing with this because of the need to refurbish the walls before providing a permanent solution to improve the path. But it seemed likely that the path on the wall would need to be repaired before next winter, going ahead of the Plan's refurbishment of the defence walls which could have a longer term more durable surface for this area close to the town. For the immediate future, a temporary measure, such as granite chippings aggregate, might be sufficient a remedy and landowners might need to be involved. EG commented that if the surface of the river wall is not revegetated it would be more vulnerable to damage from overtopping: had the SCC path surface trials revealed anything? DK said that the path surface trials at Martlesham had not yet been tested by overtopping. TB concluded that if the surface was to be repaired a temporary measure, before the main walls repairs was done, was needed. FB said that was possible that the PROW department might be able undertake some repair work but it was unlikely to before September. She asked if this was something the AOCPP should be involved in. Was this a matter for local resolution and FB would work with PROW dept. and the local bodies? AR said that he would be happy to take the matter forward as a Public Rights of Way matter, and asked for a copy of the correspondence with the PROW dept. Charles Croydon asked about stopping cycles using the path. FB said that Natural England were clear that the coastal footpath would be a footpath and was not for cycles. TB commented that Snape PC had had problems with cycles on the river wall there, but the installation of large signage stating the path was not for bicycles seemed the have largely deterred cyclists. Charles Croydon said that enforcement remained an issue.

9. **Finance**

TB reported that an account for the AOCPP had been opened with the Ipswich Building Society. He had put some money into the account pending securing the transfer of funds from the former AOEP account. On that EG had achieved a positive outcome from his enquiries on the process to enable the necessary cheque to be made out to the AOCPP and complete the transfer of funds. On finances there was around £13,000 and expenditure this last year, on web site maintenance and development, had cost £1185. A full financial report would be made when the bank transfers had been completed.

10. **Election of Officers**

It was agreed unanimously to elect the current officers for a further year and thanks were expressed to them for their work.

Chairman	Tim Beach
Vice Chairman	Frances Barnwell
Treasurer	Chris Gill
Hon Secretary	Alison Andrews

11. **Any other business:**

i. **Charles Croydon**, Suffolk Coast Heaths Unit (Coast and Estuary Warden for the AONB) wished everyone to be aware of the work being done this spring to help redshanks, the flagship species for the AONB, and provision of swift boxes and called for volunteers to help. (Details to be on AOCPP web site)

AONB contact alex.mooredaluz@suffolk.gov.uk 07734 967782

ii. **TB** said that the Partnership would be holding public meetings to inform the community about progress with the implementation of the Estuary Plan. As in the near future this was likely to have to be a virtual event, he would, with the help of Ray Herring, be asking Sharon Bleese, CPE, to assist in setting up and managing such an event.

8. **Dates of Next meetings**

The next meeting would be on either **Thursday 25 March or Thursday 1 April at 6.30pm**, almost certainly by Zoom.