



Blakeney Channel Coastal Community Team

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2019 at 7 p.m., Blakeney Hotel, Blakeney

Attendees:

Don Glaister, John Seymour, Peter Roe, Morris Arthur, Paul Bishop, Alban Donohoe, Frenesi Ewing, James Cowan, Iain Wolfe

Apologies:

Victoria Egan

Absent:

Neil Thompson

Chairman's Report:

The previous minutes were approved.

Project Managers Report:

Stakeholder meetings:

DG gave a short summary of the meetings we had held with Crown Estates and National Trust.

Meeting with Peter Riches, Crown Estates – 11th Feb 2019

This had been a very informal and open meeting. Crown Estates own the land below low water and their primary concern seemed to be the 'unregulated use of crown land' rather than the actual money that might be raised by any lease or license agreements.

A lease held by a "fairway" body would give that body the opportunity to undertake a project such as ours, but with that opportunity comes responsibility to manage the area leased. As the boundary of any land leased would change overtime, it would make sense to have a joint lease with Crown Estates and National Trust acting as joint landlords giving us access to the whole creak.

However any such lease or undertaking would require extensive local support and the group are well aware that such support may not be forthcoming.

Meetings with Victoria Egan, National Trust

BC3T had had a meeting scheduled for 20th March, which VE attended, however it wasn't possible to review EXO's design at this stage.

On the 3rd of May we visited the National Trust's Blakeney's office, hoping to seek initial feedback on the draft EXO design. However, it became clear during the meeting that the Trust have a policy of not commenting on initial



or outline designs and we would need to proceed with full license applications as the Trust will not comment on details ahead of comments from the regulators.

But she also stressed that any project would have to act in accordance with the Shoreline Management Plans and Estuary management Plans. VE did express concerns about use of hard structures in a soft landscape particularly if this leads to a need to extend these methods further along the creeks.

She offered to alert the regional and national teams that a design will be forth coming and we asked if she could contact the National Coastal Marine specialist (Phil Dyke) to see if other similar areas of coastline, facing the same types of sedimentation issues, have successfully managed to initiate projects meeting the Trust's guidelines and policies.

EXO Update

DG gave an update on project costs. To undertake a subsequent survey would cost about £9,000. The costs of to get ready to submit a permit application are (optimistically) estimated at £50,000, DG suspected with feedback and reviews the figure could be significantly higher. EXO had explicitly excluded modelling this scheme because "A geomorphology / hydrodynamic model is likely to be cost prohibitive (£30K). I personally don't think this small project warrants such an expensive study. We can elaborate on our assumptions using technical knowledge, academic references and our experience of the Creeks functioning, this should be sufficient for a licence."

It is understood Natural England have commissioned a PHD student to undertake an historic document review on sediment movement along this coastal area – hopefully this may be released later in the year.

DG had followed up with Ken Pye, asking him to undertake a peer review of EXO's initial design. The group felt this was a good idea.

JS said that the design needed to remain flexible – we may well need to look at ways of reducing the use of geo blocks. EXO had covered this off in their comments on their estimated costs

"We could replace all the GeoBlock sites with brushwood or other nature based engineering, this may be easily resolved, but needless to say, less robust. It would also mean more sediment has to be moved within the creek." This could impact the budget.

There was general concern that the long term social and economic implications of Blakeney silting up and the subsequent loss of visitors this would cause may not be given sufficient weight and consideration.

Planned Consultations



It was agreed we would continue with stakeholder consultations and arrange meetings with

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- MMO

Any other Business:

BHA report - James Cowan commented that people in general are very protective of current status quo in Blakeney Harbour and reluctant to see any increase in regulation or bodies taking control.

The BHA are trying to establish a voluntary agreement with main marine services companies in the area to discourage new moorings being placed in the main sailing and water skiing areas.

Next Steps:

- Review similar case studies from National Trust if/once this information is made available by the National team

Next meetings:

Weds 26th June – The Blakeney Hotel, The Trafalgar Room 2pm – 4pm

Weds 24th July – The Blakeney Hotel, 7pm