

## AGENDA

		Lead	Approx. Timing
1	Welcome and Introductions	Cllr Harry Blathwayt	5
2	Previous Minutes: Meeting of 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Cllr Harry Blathwayt	5
3	RSPB – East Coast Wetlands	Philip Pearson	25
4	Environment Agency Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Sea Palling and Eccles</li> <li>– North Norfolk Water Quality</li> </ul>	Catherine Harries Lisa Turner	30
<b>Break</b>			10
5	East Anglian Coastal Group Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charles Krolik-Root - Coastal Manager Introduction</li> <li>- Repairs and Maintenance Update</li> </ul>	Karen Thomas Charles Krolik-Root Brian Farrow	20
6	Coastwise Update	Rob Goodliffe	10
7	East Anglian Coast and Estuary Conference	Sharon Bleese	10
8	Date of next meeting – 14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request/proposal for items</li> </ul>	Cllr Harry Blathwayt	1
9	Any Other Business	Cllr Harry Blathwayt	
<b>Close</b>			

Supporting officers:

Karen Thomas, CPE  
Brian Farrow, CPE/NNDC  
Charles Krolik-Root, CPE/GYBC  
Rob Goodliffe, NNDC  
Sharon Bleese, CPE  
Thomas Walker, CPE/NNDC

Invited speakers

Philip Pearson, RSPB  
Catherine Harries, EA  
Lisa Turner, EA



## NORFOLK COAST FORUM

### Minutes of the meeting held on

Tuesday, 28 March 2023, 10.00 am  
Via Zoom

#### Present

##### Members

Cllr Harry Blathwayt (Chairman)	Cabinet Portfolio Member for the Coast
Cllr Angie Fitch-Tillett	Poppyland Ward
Cllr Peter Fisher	Wells with Holkham Ward
Cllr Wendy Fredericks	Mundesley Ward

##### Officers

Karen Thomas	Head of CPE
Charles Krolik-Root	CPE
James Cochrane	CPE
Joshua Walpole	CPE
Fiona Keenaghan	Coastal Engineer, CPE/NNDC
Peter Jermamy	SMP Coordinator, CPE/NNDC
Rob Goodliffe	CTAP Manager, CPE/NNDC
Sharon Bleese	CPE
Trazar Astley-Reid	CPE
Thomas Walker	Coastal Technical Support Officer, CPE/NNDC
Alysha Stockman	CPE (notes)
Emma Denny	Democratic Services Manager, NNDC
Robert Young	NNDC

##### Also Attending

Adele Powell	WNNMP
Chris Vincent	UEA
David Mole	
Denise Revell	Witton Parish Council
Emily	
Gary Watson	Environment Agency
Gemma Clark	Natural England
Gordon Partridge	Overstrand Parish Council
Henry Cator	
Ian Robinson	
Jaap Flikweert	RFCC
Jane Locke	Norfolk County Council
Jon Butler	Eastern IFCA

Katy Owen	
Kevin Jonas	
Mareth Bassett	Environment Agency
Marie-Pierre Tighe	Broads Authority
Matthew Philpot	
Mike Watts	Secretary, Holt Sea Angling Club
Noel Galer (Cllr)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Pauline Porter	
Peter Peruzzi	Lessingham and Hempstead with Eccles Parish Council
Peter Terrington	Sediment Advisory Group
Richard Leeds	
Richard Powell	RFCC
Richard Price (Cllr)	Norfolk County Council
Ron Hanton (Cllr)	Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Sarah Bristow	NALC
Dr Sophie Day	UEA – seconded to CPE
Tony Thomas	Sea Anglers Association
Victoria Egan	National Trust
Victoria	
William Athill	

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies and minutes</b></p> <p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>Tim O’Riordan, Julian Gregory, Irene Lorenzoni, Duncan Baker MP, Vanessa Gouldsmith, Michael Gurney, Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Catherine Harries, Cllr Eric Vardy, Rob Wise, Ralph West</p> <p>The notes from the last meeting held on 2 November were confirmed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Environment Agency (EA) Update – Mareth Bassett/Gary Watson</b></p> <p><b>Gary Watson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation management for the north Norfolk coastal flood defence embankments is about to start with the vegetation clearance. The EA are trying to tackle the invasive species management, principally Alexanders weed. This means following the early vegetation cut the team will be returning to do focussed cuts in areas where there is extensive Alexanders weed spreading, which might mean cutting during periods such as No Mow May. The reason for this is once the Alexanders weed spreads and seeds and is cut back at the end of the year, bare soil is left on the embankments heading into winter. The early data shows that this approach is having a significant impact on the spread of Alexanders weed.</li> <li>• Cley Catchwater embankment sluice erosion works have been completed by the EA asset performance team.</li> <li>• The EA undertook repairs to the seawall voids at Eccles in November 2022. The beach levels needed to be low for the work to be undertaken so some patches were not done as beach levels were too high and the asset performance team are</li> </ul>

looking at that.

- The Sea Palling ramp is progressing. The preferred option has been developed and costed at ~£2million. The EA are looking for cost savings through the design.
- There were a series of high spring tides and surges on 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> February, which involved incident response to close the flood gates but there were no incidents.
- The EA regularly do asset and safety inspections throughout the year and appreciate members of the public inspecting assets and reporting issues.
- GW is leading on the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Refresh for SMP5. There has been a health check report, which has found the science and policies remain sound and recommended establishing a working group and producing an updated action plan. There will be a new SMP website which is due to go live at the end of the year.
- The EA have approval to develop a business case for the next phase of the Happisburgh to Winterton groyne repairs and beach recharge.

#### **Mareth Bassett**

- The EA were involved in the 1953 commemoration and remembrance events along the coast and MB attended the event at Sea Palling organised by Cllr Price.
- MB is attending the Norfolk County Show in June and will have a stand around coastal erosion, climate change and how that will change the look of the land and coast for the future. This will also look at how to better manage that and make communities more resilient.
- MB recently attended the Norfolk Careers Fair and is a STEM ambassador. MB will be putting together schools' engagement and teaching packs from the EA's perspective and is hoping to go into schools on a rolling programme.

#### **Questions:**

**Cllr Richard Price** appreciated attention being given to the defences at Eccles because the voids are very pronounced and added it is important the EA keep in contact with the local parish council to make sure the community are kept informed. Cllr Price thanked MB for her support at the commemoration event at Sea Palling.

**William Athill** asked how closely the EA is involved with the rivers flowing into the estuaries along the north Norfolk coast.

**Gary Watson** confirmed the EA is closely involved as the main rivers are their responsibility.

**William Athill** asked for an update on what is being done about monitoring the water quality of the rivers, specifically the Stiffkey and the Glaven going into Blakeney Harbour as well as the Burn.

**Gary Watson** confirmed he is a coastal engineer, and that water quality falls under a separate wing of the EA. Following liaison with the Chairman or secretary the EA can provide someone to speak about that at a future meeting.

**Henry Cator** added following the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance meeting, many people were concerned at the state of the outfalls on the Burn and the Glaven due to sediment build up and need for maintenance. HC asked if GW was aware.

**Gary Watson** is not aware of any specific issues with the outfalls but can ask the team who is responsible for those.

**William Athill** confirmed the outfalls are silting up. There was local concern why the six month building work on the two outfalls installed silver posts, and then was redone with black metal posts. There is some ongoing work with Blakeney Harbour Association on dredging of the Glaven just below the outfall.

**The Chairman** thanked GW for the work on the Sea Palling ramp and looks forward to further progress.

#### 4. Coastal Partnership East (CPE) Update

##### Overview – Karen Thomas

- KT shared the importance of the work CPE are doing in Norfolk is delivering a range of national targets and activities as well as carrying the Norfolk coast up to discussions nationally about things that are needed for Norfolk. A number of the CPE team take part in national coastal discussions with the Local Government Association Coastal Special Interest Group and are very active particularly with the Coastal Adaptation Group. In January KT presented evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on coastal adaptation communities and was able to talk about Norfolk in particular and the local view. KT also discussed some of the challenges that coastal communities face and some of the things CPE are hoping to do with CTAP and Resilient Coasts. There is a report on the LGA Coastal SIG website summarising that event.
- As Chair of the East Anglian Coastal Group, KT sits on the Coastal Group Network of seven chairs nationally who work together with the EA to deliver the EA strategy, the action plans coming out of that, and work with practitioners locally.
- At Hemsby Storm Larissa brought significant damage and beach lowering and subsequent spring tides have compounded that. CPE declared the emergency with the EA on 10<sup>th</sup> March and sadly five homes have been demolished due to high erosion of the soft sand dunes. One property was able to rollback, and this is ultimately part of a wider adaptation plan that the CPE team have been working on for some time with the property owner. The current focus is on a £735k emergency scheme investment from Great Yarmouth Borough Council. This involved transporting 1900T of rock from Hopton where there was a surplus supply and will be completed later this week. CPE will then be working on a retrospective outline business case and demolition grants for the properties that have had to be demolished. There are still public and lifeboat access issues and further community discussions needed.
- KT reminded the Forum that the widening out of the Norfolk Coast Forum is to bring in communities and representation from the whole of the Norfolk coast.

##### Questions:

**The Chairman** asked given that Hemsby was incredibly lucky that there was a store of rock if it would be wise to have stores of rock in strategic places along the coast.

**Karen Thomas** added the Resilient Coasts project, which covers Great Yarmouth and East Suffolk, will be looking at that idea. CPE would like to have an approach where rock can be bought in an efficient way and stored in a couple of places around the coast. The rock will be for short-term solutions to target high erosion situations, emergencies, and buy time to resolve other issues.

##### Cromer and Mundesley Scheme Update – Fiona Keenaghan

- The main site compound and welfare facilities will be located in Runton Road carpark, which will serve both Cromer and Mundesley with a small welfare compound in the carpark by the gun emplacement also at Mundesley.
- At Cromer there will be improvement works to the access ramp below Runton Road carpark and a small amount of rock will be placed to help with outflanking of the cliffs. There will be repair works to all six of the groynes. A new set of concrete access steps to the beach will be installed in front of Dunes Arcade to facilitate access to the beach for members of the public once rock is in place. A rock revetment will be installed to the west of the pier to help reduce overtopping and protect the promenade and cliff from scouring. Scour protection will also be installed. Groyne works will continue east of the pier including to Groyne 2 (at the end of the fisherman's ramp) and Groyne 1 (Banksy Groyne), which are critical to Cromer and holding the beach. An apron will be installed between the fisherman's ramp and the beach huts to prevent the seawall being undermined during lower beach levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At Mundesley there will be repair works to 11 of the groynes and navigation beacons at the ends of groynes will be repaired or replaced in both Mundesley and Cromer. CPE hope to have a rock stockpile in front of the timber revetment subject to funding. The main rock structure will be in front of the steel structure west of the access from the promenade onto the beach. In front of the beach huts will be concrete encasement works on the apron to futureproof for lower beach levels. There will be scour protection works to the cliff near the double access ramp and a wildflower seed mix will be planted. There will be repairs and levelling work to the promenade from the Ship Inn access steps eastwards. A small amount of rock will be placed in front of the lifeboat station and Anglian Water pumping station to help when beach levels are low. There will be work to widen where the seawall and apron meet to allow plant movement.</li> <li>• CPE will be submitting marine licences today and hopefully the planning applications by the end of the week. Construction is due to start this summer subject to licences being approved and the current programme for both works is approximately 64 weeks subject to any further delays.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1953 Floods Film – James Cochrane</b></p> <p><b>James Cochrane:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPE created a film to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1953 floods and 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 2013.</li> <li>• The idea behind the film was to create 30-second clips for the Norfolk and Suffolk Coast and Estuaries Conference but once filming commenced this was extended to three five-minute-videos. The feedback from those was positive and CPE decided to produce a feature length documentary, which would then touch on 2013 and include the future.</li> <li>• The aim was to commemorate the anniversaries and share the stories of those who were there or are subject matter experts. The key points brought up during filming were in 1953 there were little or no sea defences, no warning, and no forecasting; in 2013 there were sea defences, warning and forecasting but there was still relatively serious destruction. An opportunity emerged to talk about the future and discuss the issues that the sector faces and try to provoke conversation around that and on Resilient Coasts.</li> <li>• The film has been picked up by local cinemas in Southwold, Woodbridge, Lowestoft, and Felixstowe and has received over 3000 views on YouTube. It has also been used by the EA in their 1953 commemoration social media posts and was well received on social media. Some geography focussed social media accounts started the conversation around climate change particularly around the coastal line vs coastal zone.</li> <li>• JC thanked Richard Powell, David Kemp and the EA for their support and contributions.</li> <li>• The public version of the film is available to watch at <a href="https://youtu.be/hkkHBcjtRyM">https://youtu.be/hkkHBcjtRyM</a>. There is a communities version that includes the archive footage available upon request.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b>  <b>The Chairman</b> suggested his coastal parishes would be interested.  Please contact <a href="mailto:James.Cochrane@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">James.Cochrane@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> regarding the communities version of the film.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme Update – Rob Goodliffe</b></p> <p><b>Rob Goodliffe:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme focuses on the eroding coast between Kelling Hard and Cart Gap and is about developing ways to help manage and facilitate coastal transition.</li> <li>• Through the outline business case the team were asked to look at what is the business as usual, which is quite reactive. The team have information available,</li> </ul>

	<p>good planning policies, access to Coastal Erosion Assistance Grants for some residential properties, as a local authority provide demolition assistance and advice and housing advice. This is not enough where there is coastal change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The outcome of the programme is to learn how to work in coastal locations with erosion and what needs to be done to help those locations to transition from coastal erosion risk. In doing so the Government want practical actions delivered. The eligible actions include asset and property rollback; providing solutions for the infrastructure at risk; repurposing land and assets in the risk zone; working with communities and businesses to be better prepared; looking at how local policies can link in to SMPs to enable transition in the future; work out ways this can be self-financing and sustained so it becomes the business as usual; and develop a coastal transition plan for the location. In North Norfolk the team are looking to deliver a Strategic Coastal Transition Plan which will be supported with more local transition plans co-developed with communities or different sectors. This learning can be shared nationally with other local authorities and show what would work on a national scale and what the blockers might be.</li> <li>• RG explained the key work packages: Transition Plans and Approach; People and Place Preparedness; Practical Actions and Support; and Funding and Finance. The programme aims to develop the work CPE has done on Coastal Loss Innovative Funding and Finance, working with the other CTAP and FCRIP projects on what other funding and finance mechanisms are being looked at and what could be scaled up nationally.</li> <li>• The next steps are to get full EA approval following submission of the outline business case this week. The initial support package is currently being developed, the team needs to be developed, and a new name will be created to share with East Riding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b>  <b>Adele Powell</b> asked if the work packages are the same for the CTAP in East Riding and if there are any plans for shared learning and/or collaboration. Regarding coastal literacy AP asked if there are opportunities to link with the engagement work planned surrounding the SMP Explorer.  <b>Rob Goodliffe</b> added that East Riding have developed their own programme for CTAP based on the same principles so there are similarities and opportunities for shared work. This will not be limited to East Riding and will include Resilient Coasts and other partners that need to be identified. The SMP Explorer website is going to be a good step forward for the SMPs and will link into the new National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping. RG does not think it would be straightforward to potentially change the scope of that work but there could be things done to compliment that going forward.</p> <p><b>The Chairman</b> asked with regards to the psychological effects on those living close to the coast, if RG is aware that the church parishes are getting together to form pastoral care.  <b>Rob Goodliffe</b> confirmed not and agreed to discuss with the Chairman separately. RG is aware that Mind are doing climate cafes locally which might be another area to investigate.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>Resilient Coasts – GYBC – Charles Krolik-Root</b></p> <p><b>Charles Krolik-Root</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resilient Coasts is one of 25 Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme projects and has £9.6m of Defra funding. CPE’s vision for this project is to provide a toolkit of options to enable people, economies, and the environment to transition to a climate resilient coast.</li> <li>• CKR explained the eight work packages to the Forum and introduced the pilot and twin sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b>  <b>Cllr Galer</b> shared <a href="https://qyta.com/research/economic-impact-of-tourism-great-yarmouth/">https://qyta.com/research/economic-impact-of-tourism-great-yarmouth/</a> and added in conjunction with Hemsby and its economic value that there is further</p>

	<p>research going on using mobile phone data proving the point made about Hemsby being a hub for visitors coming to the area.</p> <p><b>Charles Krolik-Root</b> added the catchment-based approach, looking at how coastal communities service the wider area, and any information that can be gathered including mobile phone data is important.</p> <p><b>The Chairman</b> asked why the beach has built up at North Denes especially around Britannia Pier area.</p> <p><b>Charles Krolik-Root</b> confirmed it would be best to ask Colin Bye. North Denes has been accruing sand for quite some time with the dunes developing but it is generally due to the wave action.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of next meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agenda items - suggestions to be emailed to the Chair or one of the team.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business:</b></p> <p><b>The Chairman</b> thanked Cllr Fitch-Tillett for her valuable work over the preceding years.</p> <p><b>Peter Peruzzi</b> shared that the toe piles on the sea wall have been corroded through and the sea has been taking a cavity out underneath the wall. The EA made repairs last autumn and pumped in concrete to try and reinforce it. There are now voids between the pumped concrete and the wall. People are concerned that the standard of work has not been achieved.</p> <p><b>Gary Watson</b> added this was discussed at the beginning of the meeting and agreed this type of repair relies on continuing low beach levels. The beach levels did raise so there was a small section the EA could not repair and are aware of that. It will be picked up in future programmes and the EA are very grateful of the community taking pictures and letting them know about these issues.</p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 12.03</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Chairman</p>