

Southwold to Walberswick Flood and Coast Board

Minutes of meeting 3rd March 2023 10am-12pm

Attendees:

DB	Cllr David Beavan (Chair)	East Suffolk Council
DR	Cllr David Ritchie	East Suffolk Council
SB	Sharon Bleese	Coastal Partnership East
MF	Madeline Fallon	Coastal Partnership East
AS	Alysha Stockman	Coastal Partnership East
FJ	Fiona Johnson	Coastal Partnership East
JC	James Cochrane	Coastal Partnership East
CF	Chris Finbow	Coastal Partnership East
JF	Jon-Paul Farthing	Coastal Partnership East
VG	Vanessa Gouldsmith	Natural England
ABu	Adam Burrows	Natural England
IB	Ian Bradbury	Southwold Town Council
JT	Jamie Thompson	SHRBUA
ABI	Andrew Blois	Landowner

Apologies:

MJ	Mark Johnson	Environment Agency
SF	Simon Flunder	Southwold and Reydon Society
ML	Cllr Michael Ladd	Suffolk County Council
SR	Sharon Richardson	Coastal Partnership East
PP	Paul Patterson	Coastal Partnership East
KT	Karen Thomas	Coastal Partnership East
PO	Philip O'Hear	Reydon Parish Council
JB	Josie Bassinette	Walberswick Parish Council
AJ	Anne Jones	Landowner
PJ	Phil Jones	Landowner
DT	Daniel Turner	Natural England
RS	Richard Steward	Blyth Estuary Partnership
GW	Gary Watson	Environment Agency
KB	Kerry Blair	East Suffolk Council
MH	Matt Hullis	Suffolk County Council
GM	Graeme Mateer	Suffolk County Council

Welcome, introductions, minutes and actions from last meeting	<p>The Chair shared a round of introductions.</p> <p>The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting. Actions to be covered later in the agenda.</p>
Southwold Harbour Investment Plan Update	<p>MF shared that the Investment Plan for Southwold Harbour is to look at the condition of all the Harbour mouth assets, including their life and what impact there could be to the Harbour and upstream if they failed, were replaced, or repaired. A Harbour Management Committee meeting was held last week to go through the extra modelling and the outcome of that. MF explained the modelling results and next steps to the Board. Comments from the working groups will be fed back at the next Harbour Management Committee meeting on 9th March, following which RHDHV will finalise the Investment Plan Report. A Conclusions and Recommendations Report will be produced for the July Harbour Management Committee meeting.</p>

	<p>The Chair added the Stakeholder Advisory Group are broadly supportive of the Investment Plan and moving on with the south pier but raised concerns around the estuary and sand bar. The chair asked if the report is publicly available. MF confirmed the report is still in draft but once published it will be in the public domain.</p>
<p>Public drop-ins</p>	<p>SB shared that CPE held a drop-in in December themed around Christmas past, present, and future. This was to get people to start thinking about that the coast is influenced by what has happened previously, what is happening now, and what might happen in the future. CPE were pleased with the attendance and are aware of the need to work on the 18-44 demographic. This is will be supported by the virtual room because that does increase the age range reached. One of the aims of the drop-in was to understand what people value and what potential options might sit well with them. CPE asked questions around this in the feedback survey and found that most residents wanted to keep tourism about the same, so there will need to be conversations around if that is possible to be able to bring in funding. As the pre-election period starts, the engagement with Southwold will have a brief hiatus until after the election but during that time CPE will start to plan the next stage.</p> <p>The Chair asked if it is still online. SB confirmed the virtual room is online and will continue to be updated as things progress. SB will be going to speak to Southwold Town Council about Resilient Coasts and the coast post elections to update and involve them. The Chair and IB will look to ensure Reydon and Walberswick are included in the meeting.</p> <p>ABI noted the demographic and asked what CPE are doing to encourage the younger generation to visit the virtual room. SB added CPE are using the learning from other areas and pushing the virtual room on social media which has worked well. ABI asked if visitors are also being reached. FJ shared there is a relatively new way of using technology to anonymously track and measure various patterns of tourists, where they come from, where they go to, how they move around a particular area, and how long they stay based on mobile phone data. ABI added that is useful and asked how those people are being reached to access the virtual room and feedback. SB added CPE are testing this in Thorpeness at the moment and that approaches can be evaluated with the analytics from social media and the virtual room.</p> <p>JT suggested getting involved in school projects about the coast.</p>
<p>Partner and community group updates and AOB</p>	<p>The Chair shared that the Blyth Estuary Partnership are focusing on the plan for the estuary and working with the Harbour Management Committee to do that.</p> <p>The Chair added Potters Bridge tends to breach at the beach before it gets to serious flooding on the road. The water levels have dropped by a metre so the reed beds above the bridge are going to become in danger. The Chair has been speaking with ABu and Suffolk County Council Highways about maintaining levels.</p>
<p>Date of next meeting and close</p>	<p>To be arranged following elections and the first Cabinet meeting.</p>