

**Minutes of the Northam Burrows Forum Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam following the Committee Meeting.**

**Present:** Cllrs Miller (Chairman), Brading, Durkin, Hames, Hancock,  
**In attendance:** Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk  
 Mr M Evans (RNDGC), Mr M Day (Ranger TDC), Alderman Barclay (1716 Committee, Hazel Tranchant (Southwest Water), Rebecca Aston (Natural England) and Mr Griffey (graziers' representative)

**1706/146 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman welcomed the representatives

**1706/147 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Whittaker, Eastman and Tisdale

**1706/148 Declarations of interest:**

Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.

**1706/149 To agree agenda as published**

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published.

Proposed: Cllr Hancock, Seconded: Cllr Brading (all in favour)

**1706/150 Public Participation**

*Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 3 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 15 minutes.*

A representative from the Taw, Torridge, Estuary Forum, wished to raise some issues over the geo-textiles used to strengthen the Pebbleridge. These are increasingly becoming exposed due to wind and storms. The materials present a danger to the environment. TDC is aware of the problem and will seek alternative solutions for the Pebbleridge; TDC Ranger will hopefully bring suggestions to the forum meeting.

**1706/151 To receive reports and observations from:**

- Natural England  
 The new representative from Natural England advised she is trying to get up to date, she is trying to keep on top of scrub issues, and will take on board the impact of the geo-textiles.
- Torridge District Council  
 The Ranger advised of the fire at the visitor centre, and was extremely pleased with the excellent teamwork which had gone into re-opening within a couple of days and providing a display unit within three days. It is hoped to re-open fully for the summer holidays.  
 Torridge is undertaking a full environmental study to include Bassetts Bridge and the Pill. DCC have not come forward with any further proposals for the tip, however TDC as the coastal protection authority are monitoring any seepage from the tip.  
 Questions were asked about the proposed new visitor centre, this is the subject of a feasibility study.

- **Royal North Devon Golf Club**  
The Golf Club has been the subject of numerous bouts of vandalism, with greens dug up and flooded. This was the worst in 20 years. A question was raised about the gates being left open at night and the Ranger will speak with the company responsible. It was felt that there is still room for improvement with signage, TDC is working on this.
- **1716 Committee**  
Questions were raised about dredging the burn, this will be looked at under the ecological management scheme.  
Further questions were asked about sewage draining onto the Burrows. SWW advised that there have been considerable improvements and they have only recorded one instance since last September.
- **South West Water**  
The representative updated the meeting and requested that any reports of sewage on the Burrows should be reported immediately to SWW. Improvements have been made and there has only been one discharge into Goosey Pool since last September.  
It is not expected that withdrawal from the EU will impact on regulations. There was a brief discussion on provision of infrastructure, with regard to planning.  
At this juncture Cllr Brading gave his apologies and left the meeting.

**1706/152 To receive items from the Graziers' representatives**  
The sheep grazier reported the loss of one sheep from a dog attack but there is a report of another dead sheep up by the tip.

**1706/153 To consider the leaflet**  
Overall the response to the amendments was good and production will now commence.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.10 am

Signed..... Date.....