

Minutes of the Northam Burrows Forum Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam

Present: Cllrs Miller (Chairman), Mrs Whittaker, Durkin, Hames and Tisdale
In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk
Mr M Evans (RNDGC), Mr M Day (Ranger TDC), Mr S Kearney (TDC) and Alderman Barclay (1716 Committee)

1709/452 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman had nothing to report

1709/453 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Brading, Eastman and Hancock. Also, Hazel Tranchant (Southwest Water), Rebecca Aston (Natural England) and Mr & Mrs Lamey (Horse Grazier Representatives).

1709/454 Declarations of interest:

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

1709/455 To agree agenda as published

The agenda was agreed

1709/456 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.

No member of the public wished to speak

1709/457 To consider sewage pollution incident

The Chairman read an email from South West Water, advising that the incident is being investigated both by themselves and the Environment Agency, they will notify us of the results.

1709/458 To receive reports and observations from:

- Natural England - apologies

- Torridge District Council

The Ranger reported that it had been a difficult time following the fire, with no power and no computer until August. All organised events had still taken place and all bookings fulfilled. Displays were ready for the re-opening. Coast and Creatures had provided a new display which had been well received.

Anti- social behaviour had been relatively quiet, no sign of parties etc.

Fewer incidents with cars in the car parks. There had been an unpleasant sheep attack, covered in the press and social media. Otherwise the flock was in good condition.

HLS agreement, another scrub and cut in the next month or so, contractors have submitted quotes for the work. A map of planned work will be sent to NTC to be put on the web site. Water germander have doubled in quantity, increasing slowly but surely. On bird walks kestrels, and peregrine falcons have been spotted, also skylarks are plentiful. The situation with the rabbit population was queried, no plans for culling.

Plans are underway for a new improved Visitor Centre, funding will be sought after seeking planning approval. TDC want to liaise with NTC and RNDGC And other interested parties. NTC will hold a special meeting and TDC will give a presentation. The Chairman queried problems with locking and unlocking the gates. The Ranger will address this. There was a query regarding geo textiles. It appears that whilst they are acceptable, the wrong ones had been used. They have now been covered up. The best solution will be discussed at a biosphere meeting.

- Royal North Devon Golf Club
There have been problems with children riding bikes on the greens and a request for additional signage was made. TDC will deal with this quickly. Incidents have been reported to the police. Use of buggies was queried they can only be used by people supplying a note from the doctor. It was reported that Silver weed has been a problem but agreement has been reached with Natural England regarding mowing and clippings.
- 1716 Committee
The minutes from the TTEF were queried in relation to the 1716 committee. They had been incorrectly recorded and there are no plans for the 1716 committee to be discontinued. There was no surprise about the sewage incident. Questions arose about Bassetts bridge and the burn and TDC reported they are waiting for an ecologist's report. There was also concern about the Appledore Bridge. TDC will look at all the facts before making a decision. This will form part of their management plan for 2018.
- South West Water, apologies had been received

1709/459 To receive items from the Graziers representatives
There were no representatives present

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.45am

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