

Minutes of the Northam Burrows Forum Meeting held on Monday 10th September 2018 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Windmill Lane, Northam

Present: Cllrs Laws (Chairman), Davis, Eastman, Hames and Tisdale
In attendance: Mrs M J Mills – Town Clerk
Mr M Evans (RNDGC), Mr M Day (Ranger TDC), Mr S Kearney (TDC)
Mr R Griffey and Mr M Lamey (Graziers)
Member of the public

1809/388 Chairman's announcements

There were none.

1809/389 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mrs Whittaker, Rev Arnold and Hancock. Also, Hazel Tranchant (Southwest Water), Rebecca Aston (Natural England) and 1716 Committee.

1809/390 Declarations of interest:

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

1809/391 To agree agenda as published

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

Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)

1809/392 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 gentleman from the TTEF asked if they could be represented on the Forum.

It was **resolved** to accept a representative.

Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded: Cllr Hames (all in favour)

Cllr Laws then spoke about the 1716 Committee. He hopes it can be re-activated so that people can express their concerns to the Committee and these matters can then be forwarded to the Burrows Committee.

1809/393 To receive reports and observations from:

- Natural England (*apologies received*)
- Torridge District Council – The Ranger, Mike Day, provided a film of a news report from an event held recently which was attended by approximately 320 members of the public. They aim to engage schools and are working hard to engage public access. They would like to join forces with Northam Town Council to look at future funding for these types of events. Cllr Laws advised that he had spent the day there and that the event had been brilliant. Cllr Laws went on to say that he had found amongst Alderman Barclay's papers an agenda from 1998 and it included items regarding Bassetts Bridge and the erosion of the Pebbleridge still current today. He is keen to work with Torridge to improve the situation; the problems with the bridge need addressing and programming into works to be completed by Torridge. The Ranger explained that a hydrology report had been commissioned; this involved placing a meter either side of the bridge which would record the flow. Preliminary reports indicate that there is no obstruction to the flow, however the full report should be available in November.

The Ranger went on to say that South West Water do have a licence to discharge sewage into Goosey Pool. Recent work has improved the situation and to date there has only been one spillage this year. South West Water have agreed that there is still potential for improvements and TDC and NTC should push for that. The Ranger has requested more detailed information about spillage. At this point concern was expressed about spillage from manhole covers and the Ranger requested that if anyone is aware of these sorts of problems they should be reported to South West Water.

Cllr Laws expressed concern about the road which backs on to the pebbleridge and suggested that a short section should be returned to nature and this would help to prevent drivers racing up and down the road. He went on to say that the Burn was now almost invisible at Westward Ho! The Ranger advised that improved signage and the Northam Town Council leaflets have resulted in far less incidents on the Burrows. A request was made by a grazier that a sign be provided stating "Do not approach or feed the horses". There was a discussion regarding access to Westward Ho! beach for disabled people. Sean Kearney reported that planning permission has been obtained for a new Burrows Centre and Torridge is waiting to hear whether they have been successful with the £1.2 million grant application. The Ranger went on to say that he was concerned about stock movement not being reported to Northam Town Council; this is most important and the Town Clerk was requested to send a letter out to graziers reminding them that stock movement notification forms part of the grazing terms and conditions.

- Royal North Devon Golf Club – reported that due to erosion it has been agreed to move the 7th, 8th and 9th tee. They are waiting for planning permission for this. The bramble control agreement they have ends shortly but they hope to renew it. He went on to advise that the Royal North Devon Golf Club Ladies are celebrating 150 years this year and they are continuing to hold lots of events.
- 1716 Committee – No one present.
- South West Water (*apologies received*)

1809/394 To receive items from the Graziers representatives

The graziers advised that the Police seem to be spending more time at the Burrows and recently confiscated a vehicle which was racing there. Concerns were also expressed regarding picnics in the dunes and barbecues. The Ranger advised that whilst it is acceptable to picnic in the dunes, barbecues are not allowed and the staff undertake regular patrols to ensure this does not happen.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.15am

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