

Spurn Liaison Group

Minutes of the meeting on Thursday 20th July 2017 at 6.00pm in Easington Community Hall

Present:

Councillor Dave Tucker (Chairperson in absence of Andy Wainwright)
Karen Abba ERYC Principal Development Services Officer
Roy Clubley Parish Council
PC Matty Waverley
Councillor Lynn Healing
Martin Standley Friend of SBOT
Pat Swales Secretary of Easington Evergreen Group
Rob Adams SBOT chairman
Terry Smithson YWT Director
Sharon Smith Easington Resident
Ian Smith Parish Council
Dave Steenvorden RNLI coxswain
Larry Malkin Welwick Resident
Haris Livas-Dawes Parish Council
Adam Stoye YWT Spurn
Paul Rigby YWT Spurn Project Manager

Apologies:

Andy Wainwright ERYC Strategic Development Services Manager
Haris Livas-Dawes Parish Councillor
Christina Keyworth Easington Youth Club
Councillor Richard Burton
Andrew Wells Westmere Farm B&B

1. Notes of the last meeting and matters arising

- a) **Minutes** – to correct the minutes of the last meeting at the request of Ian Smith regarding the following points:

2) Communication

IS suggested that YWT send a letter out apologising for not informing them of the start date and where information can be found on the build.

TS stated he would take it away and think about it

MS commented that a simple yes would do Terry

7) PJ re more parking

IS ways to create a wildlife spectacle to create a better visitor experience.

IS advised that controlling water levels at Kilnsea Wetlands and Long Bank Marsh would create this. Suggestions of a wind pump on Long Bank Marsh.

2. Public Safety

PC Matty addressed the group to advise on a number of issues, stated that the Police are impartial and have been made aware that the public are putting themselves at risk by entering the site, that there have been issues of drone flights over the site.

- This stops work whilst issues are dealt with
- YWT have expressed concern regarding criminal damage to a sign, however no formal action has been taken.
- PC Matty asked for the incidents to stop and people to stay safe
- PC Matty advised that he has been made aware of issues regarding speeding through the village and that action can be taken if necessary to monitor this
- IS and SS raised issue with the complaints regarding vandalism and other issues and that it would not be locals as they would not do this sort of thing and resent the implication
- SS asked if anyone had actually made any protests at the site and IS asked if anyone had actually entered the site. IS expressed disbelief that people had entered the site without consent and that it was possible that this was done when vehicles were entering and leaving the site
- PR stated that contractors had felt intimidated by members of the public
- SS stated that some contractors had been abusive to members of the public
- IS stated that he would still be going to take photos particularly if there are any breaches of health and safety and would report any breaches to the HSE
- SS raised concerns that the Police had been invited to the meeting and questioned the relevance and also resented the implications that the “incidents” had been directed at locals.
- PC Matty apologised if he had come across as directing the “incidents” at locals
- Cllr Tucker thanked PC Matty for his support to the community
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3. Visitor Centre construction update, timeline and progress

- Traffic Management Plan – YWT have given advance notice of vehicle movements through the village and have looked at ways to improve the advance notice given and way of improving the traffic management plan
- IS again raised concerns regarding large contractors vehicles passing through the village at peak/school times (8am-9am) which has still to be resolved
- YWT advised that they are trying to avoid peak times wherever possible but they are working within constraints such as tide times. YWT are working closely with contractors to ensure care is taken at all times.
- IS asked if there had been any complaints regarding vehicle movements during school times

- DS suggested a fair and reasonable approach and said that now it was the school holidays that the vehicle movements during school drop off times should not be an issue
- PR provided an update regarding the stage of the build and advised the following:
 - o the steelwork is up
 - o the concrete slab has been poured
 - o the gabion baskets have now been completed
 - o the brick wall for the interior in the undercroft are 80% complete
 - o the car park construction has started
 - o the modular buildings are being delivered next week and there is a detailed traffic plan (showed to the group) and the Police will be on pinch points in the village to address any issues
 - o the modular buildings will arrive on an articulated lorry between 10.30am and 4.30pm to coincide with tide times and will be loaded onto the steel framework over 2 days which will lead up to the crescendo of the actual construction works
- IS started that this was not much time to notify the whole village
- PR stated that none of the vehicles were large enough to require an official escort
- IS stated that there have been breaches of health and safety at the site by the constructors, PR advised IS to e-mail these concerns to him
- IS raised concerns that the newt/vole fence is not in place correctly and is sagging in places which is not acceptable and he has photographic evidence of this
- AS advised that the fencing is inspected twice a day and put back where necessary, SBOT asked that the frequency of the inspection is increased, however AS advised that an inspection is required only once a week and so is already doing more than necessary and asked if people would let him know if the fence is down. IS still not satisfied that the Vole/Newt fence is correct
- PR reiterated that YWT staff and representatives would welcome notification of any concerns and that it would be much more productive if people would highlight these as soon as possible rather than saving them up for the Liaison Meeting.
- KA asked that the photo's be sent to her so that she could address this with the Council's own Nature Conservation Officer
- Cllr Tucker and Cllr Healing advised that if they are asked any questions about the site and the build then they have to find the answers and report back
- DS expressed concern that if all the group does is to bashing people and moaning about YWT what is the point of the liaison meeting?
- Cllr Tucker asked if the planning approval had granted consent for the brickwork that has been erected and questioned whether this meant that the structure would not be removable as it has to be demolished and asked what the definition of a temporary structure would be and that his understanding was that a temporary structure was one without foundations

- PR advised that they had had the considerate contractors audit today (20/07/2017) and the MS asked that Houltons feed the findings back to the group and can the report be published once it is published (possible new agenda item for the next meeting)

Action – YWT to report back on Considerate Contractors at next meeting

4. Suggestions wider enhancement to the Spurn area

- TS confirmed that YWT had just acquired additional land adjacent to Kilnsea Wetlands and invited welcomed suggestions as to how the land could be enhanced to provide access and viewing opportunities.
- TS highlighted that this could now incorporate some of the suggestions for enhancements made at previous meetings, notably including a new view point overlooking Longbank Marsh and pedestrian access to Kilnsea Wetlands (set back off the road. A new hide would be subject to resources and Cllr Tucker explained ERYC are happy to help look for funding streams and to help with funding streams.

Action - Cllr Tucker to discuss funding this with Cllr Burton and TS.

- Cllr Tucker suggested that additional wildflowers in the area next to the road would be welcome.
- IS said that water on Longbank marsh will create a wildlife spectacle and this was a fantastic opportunity for improving wildlife tourism and create a habitat. IS raised concerns that 2/3 meetings in we are no further on with this, TS explained that his suggestion had been forwarded to the Kilnsea Wetlands Management Group to be considered by that group which had a specific remit, and added that as the habitat at Kilnsea Wetlands was achieving its conservation requirement any additional habitat changes need to be carefully considered.
- MS asked if there is a YWT masterplan for Spurn and if there is could the group see it. IS stated that it's a big area and there should be a masterplan as it's a national nature reserve. Cllr Healing suggested that a visual master plan could be brought to the group. TS confirmed that he could bring this to inform the group.
- **Action – TS to bring master plan for Spurn to next meeting.**
- IS raised concern that all the suggestions from previous meetings had not been moved forward. YWT advised that they would look at this

Action – TS to update on progress on meeting actions.

Action – TS to bring master plan for Spurn to next meeting.

5. Any Other Business

- Cllr Tucker suggested having a separate meeting to work through issues which should include SBOT, Cllr's Tucker and Healing and YWT
- RA suggested that if any smaller groups meet that the liaison group hold them into account to make sure it is not all talk

- TS stated that YWT is keen to work with a wide group of people to deliver an inclusive vision for Spurn.
- Cllrs stated that any sub-groups need to have proper terms of reference/agenda/protocol and should have a proper paper trail. TS explained that he was reluctant to create something too onerous, that with limited resource he was keen to focus on activity. The creation of a number of sub-groups would duplicate the work of the liaison group.
- DS suggested that the focus seems to be just one group and it should not just be about birds, it should be for everyone (walkers, photographers, bucket and spaders, fishing, artists).
- HL-D stated that the masterplan needs to include more than just the birdwatchers and that YWT need to work with the Parish Council and the Coastal Gateway Project who are interested in a range of hiking trails
- TS advised that birding is actually a smaller segment of the nature tourism and wider tourism audience and confirmed that the vision for Spurn will look much wider than this narrow view.
- LM advised that over 60 artists had already been to Spurn over the last year and that his ambition was to start an artists school and that art safaris are held at Spurn on a regular basis
- RA asked if SBOT could have some small marquees put up to provide shelter if there is bad weather during the 5th Spurn Migration Festival. TS explained that YWT are supportive of the migration festival and provided staff time and financial resources in previous years. TS stated to the group that he had explained previously to both RS (prior to 2016 MigFest) and Cllr Tucker that this would not be possible due to concerns regarding bird disturbance. SBOTs own records and data from surveys carried out by YWT show that the area around the Warren is very sensitive to disturbance. The expectation now set out in the planning application is that we will reduce activity in this area, so to put up marquees on the high ground above the estuary and sea would not be appropriate, especially during the peak migration season. TS explained that he could work with SBOT to find a suitable location.
- IS said there was a suggestion about putting a hide up overlooking the Humber near the Warren. TS explained that YWT had included this in an earlier plan but that as the planning application progressed and the potential disturbance highlighted YWT were advised to change this to a simple screen overlooking the estuary in order to reduce activity in the area.
- Cllr Tucker stated he was finding it difficult to see why, for the sake of a weekend that YWT would not move on the issue of the gazebo's and in the interests of working together why can't they just go up in the short term and is it against the law? Cllr Tucker stated that it smacks of "this is my bat this is my ball"

- Cllr Healing also couldn't understand way they couldn't have the gazebo's as without them they could create more disturbance with many people standing in the open. RA added that this would be around 60 people.
- Cllr Tucker asked TS to reconsider. TS reiterated that YWT now need to seek ways to minimise disturbance in the Warren area.
- MS asked what the Coastal Communities monies were being spent on and TS advised he would send a breakdown on how the monies will be spent and will e-mail out prior to the next meeting.

Action TS to send round a breakdown of CCF funding.

- Roy asked how much of the monies will be spent on the visitor centre and what is the actual build cost?
- PR advised that there will be a financial/budgetary review and will be reported back at the next meeting but the initial budget was 1.3 million and that it is approximately £400,000 over budget but will report this more accurately.
- MS raised issue with the fact that matters that have been raised in previous meetings have not been addressed/resolved. KA asked MS to e-mail all these issues directly to her to pass onto YWT.

Action – YWT to circulate update on progress against actions (see above)

Action – MS to send outstanding actions to KA.

- MS raised concerns that YWT were not living up to the remit of the considerate contractors scheme and that YWT keep saying they will do XYZ but this is not happening
- IS stated that the liaison group is not working and is not doing what it is supposed to and SS asked “what has the group actually achieved in these meetings” and stated that nothing is happening in terms of any of the suggestions made.
- TS stated that he feels that everything they do or suggest gets attacked or dismissed, and they are doing their best and trying to move things forward.

Action - KA advised she would look at the liaison group protocol

- Cllr Healing stated that all the group seems to be is a “slanging match” between the two sides “the yes and the no’s”. There is so many positive things that could come out of the group but there is no prospect of this happening at the moment.
- Cllr Tucker said lets draw a line in the sand and move forward and address the points raised by MS in first instance.
- IS stated that nothing is happening and it is frustrating and annoying
- It was also raised as an issue that the A Wainwright and the Chair of the meeting (Cllr Burton) could not be bothered to attend
- Cllr Tucker finished the meeting by saying that there should be a commitment to work with YWT and that the matters raised tonight at the meeting need to be addressed by YWT, also that the next meeting could be used as a kind of workshop to explore the vision for Spurn.

6. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed.