

DUDDON ESTUARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Duddon Estuary Consultative Committee meeting held at Barrow Town Hall on 20 March 2012 at 2:45pm.

Brian Crawford, NWIFCA (Chair) (Notes)
Derek Lyon, FoLD (Vice-Chair)
Neil Forbes, National Trust
Barbara Copley, Kirkby Ireleth PC
Nicola Evens, Natural England
John Turner, Lonsdale Estate

L Cragg, Kirkby Ireleth PC
Barry Doughty, Barrow BBC
George Cubiss, Ramblers Association
Brian Wright, Millom without PC
Jos Curwen, SLDC
Bob Morris, Kimberley Clark Ltd

1. Introductions and Apologies:

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting and acknowledged apologies that had been received from Richard Scott, Walking for Health, Mary Jardine, Broughton in Furness & District Business Association, Paul Pearson, CCC, Cllrs David Southward, CCC, Rachel Osborn, CBC, John Murphy, BBC, Janette Jenkinson, SLDC, Harry Barker, Askam & Ireleth PC, Wendy Battersby, Millom without PC and Jack Park, CBC & Millom TC. Pauline Preston has had to resign due to employment.

Those present then introduced themselves.

2. Chairman's Report:

Since the meeting of the DECC at Kirby in Furness on November 10th and my election as Chairman, it has been quite a busy period, especially with the news that we were losing Jenny Wain almost straight away and that we will also soon be losing the services of our stalwart secretarial support Paul Pearson. He is unable to be with us today because of a work related meeting but he has briefed me as to the day's proceedings.

Since November 10th, I have attended the following meeting of relevance to the DEP:

- a. 23rd November, the AGM of the Duddon Rivers Association at Broughton.
- b. 24th November, a meeting of the Copeland Coastal Partnership at Muncaster.
- c. 6th December, a full members meeting for the NWIFCA at Morecambe.
- d. 14th December, a meeting with Jenny Wain at Ulverston to discuss ongoing issues following her departure.
- e. 9th January, a meeting of the NWIFCA Technical, Scientific and Byelaws sub-Committee at Carnforth.
- f. 18th January, a meeting with Diane Ward and Rachel Osborn of the Copeland Coastal Partnership at Bootle.
- g. 19th January, a meeting in Millom with Leslie Talbot, Duddon Estuary Bathing Waters Projects' Team, together with Adam Larbalestier, EA and Steve Ford, from ADAS, if you remember Leslie gave a presentation to the DEP on the 10th November meeting. This was a follow up to arrange a further meeting set for the 1st March to outline plans and agenda.
- h. 20th January, as Chairman of the Millom Ironworks Local Nature Reserve Management Committee, I attended a meeting in Millom to discuss plans for the new UU pipeline that will cross the Reserve to take extra groundwater to the treatment plant and hence into the Duddon Estuary.
- i. 17th February, a meeting of the NWIFCA Technical, Scientific and Byelaws sub-Committee at Carnforth.
- j. 1st March, the Bathing Waters Project Workshop in Millom, concerning the three beach sites in the Duddon Estuary.
- k. 13th March, the National Grid Workshop in Kendal.
- l. 15th March, the initial meeting workshop of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership in Penrith.
- m. 16th March, a full members meeting for the NWIFCA at Morecambe.
- n. Following today's meeting; I am booked in for the Morecambe Bay New Initiatives Event to be held in Morecambe on Thursday 22nd. This will cover H2H and Morecambe Bay Local Nature Partnership.

3. Minutes of last meeting held 10th November 2011:

Agreed as a true record, proposed by Jos Curwen, seconded by Derek Lyon and signed off by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising:

- a. Item 6 g – Rail Liaison. The Chairman reported that he had contacted Cumbria Rail Users Group (CRUG) and the issue is being dealt with by them. Jos Curwen, SLDC, raised similar concerns for the rail crossings at Dunnerholme and Foxfield regarding lighting and gate security. The Chairman will contact CRUG again to raise these issues.
- b. Item 7 II – Concessionary Fares. The Chairman read out a statement from Copeland Borough Council (CBC) (www.copeland.gov.uk) that they were not issuing bus passes after 31.03.12, but were issuing vouchers to the value of £28 for special cases of disability to be used for rail or taxi journeys. Bus passes must now be obtained from Cumbria County Council (CCC). (www.cumbria.gov.uk). Barrow Borough Council (BBC) will not be issuing concessionary passes.
- c. Partnership Secretariat: Following the Chairman's meeting with Jenny Wain on December 14th, prior to her departure from CCC, it was agreed that Paul Pearson would continue to be present at meetings to take notes until the November meeting. Paul was unable to attend today so the Chairman took notes of the meeting. It is vital that a replacement for Paul is decided on for post-November 2012. It is difficult for me to Chair a meeting and record appropriate notes. I would welcome any volunteer and support in this from any member of the DEP or any volunteer that could be co-opted to the position.
- d. Review of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the DEP/DECC: Copies of the current ToR were circulated by the Chairman. He explained that the current ToR was unfit for purpose for several reasons. It was not dated and reference to the Duddon Estuary Working Group must be deleted following the agreement to end it. Also unsatisfactory were references to the section regarding secretary as a paid member of a statutory authority as Paul will soon not be available and it is unlikely to be replaced. DEP/DECC finances are held and controlled by CCC. This in itself is not a problem but the ToR states finances will be collected and administered by the Secretary. The final paragraph under Liability will also no longer be relevant. The Chairman said that unless there was a volunteer, he would try to draft out a new ToR to be presented at the June meeting. To this end he would welcome any suggestions or input into this process.
- e. Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for the DEP/DECC: The Chairman said that due to membership of the DEP/DECC consisting of various statutory authorities (CCC, CBC, BBC, SLDC), and parish councils plus representatives of bodies such as Natural England (NE), the National Trust (NT), Environment Agency (EA), Marine Management Organisation (MMO), the North Western Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (NWIFCA), Lonsdale Estate (LE) and other bodies who between them have responsibilities and interests in the management or otherwise of the Duddon Estuary with its various European designations, it is important that all these organisations agree to administering the DEP/DECC to best fulfil any obligations or representative functions of the Partnership. That unless there was a volunteer, he would try to draft out a MoA to be presented at the June meeting. To this end he would welcome any suggestions or input into this process.

5. Standing items

a. Budget:

Since the November meeting, expenses paid out were £40.50 travel expenses of the Chairman in attending the National Grid meeting in Kendal and payments of £43.37 to update the website (<http://www.duddon-estuary.org.uk/>). The balance currently stands at £4256. Should any of the partners have projects that would benefit the Duddon Estuary and are looking for funding, it was suggested that they should prepare a case and submit it to Members for application approval.

b. Energy Infrastructure:

As mentioned in the Chairman's Report, I attended the latest National Grid North West Coast Connections Project meeting in Kendal on Tuesday 13th March. Firstly I would like to thank Richard who offered to attend in my place due to my car problems but these were sorted out in time and I was able to attend. The meeting followed its usual pattern, starting at 10am until 4pm with several updated presentations on the following topics:

- Strategic Options and Need Case by Rod Richardson, National Grid. (Why we need a new connection)
- Implications of Change in Need by Steve Robinson, National Grid. (Implications of no Heysham Nuclear Power Station)
- Britain's Energy Coast by Rosie Mathisen, BEC. (Ongoing developments on land and sea re Energy)

- NuGeneration – Moorside, new Nuclear build north of Sellafield by Jo Bytsebier, NuGen. (Confirmation of three 1.2 GW reactors each requiring 60 cubic metres of sea water per second for cooling. This to be returned to the sea at a higher temperature.)
- Electricity North West by Ian Povey, ENW. (ENW purchases power supplies off National Grid and operate 132kv power supply. I had a chat with him about the cables from Askam to Millom. These will continue to be used but supported by land based wind turbines.)
- Other National Grid Projects in the North West by Martin Bretherton, NG.
- Costing of overhead vs undergrounding of new routing cables. Undergrounding is about 10 times more expensive than overhead. £16.7 million underground per km as against £1.6 million overhead. Moorside requires about 150km of cabling. Minimum cost if all overhead is £240 million.
- Strategic Options Appraisal by Charlie Webber, NG. (Looking at routing options as before)
- Next Steps by Robert Powell, NG. (developing a preferred option)
- Public Consultation to Stage 1 options by Andrea Key, NG. (plus a Planning Performance Agreement)

c. Marine & Coastal Issues:

(i) As mentioned in my Chairman's Report, I attended several meetings of the NWIFCA and its main sub-committee since the last DEP meeting. Obviously the main area of concern has been the cockle and mussel byelaw and enforcement issue. It is hoped that there is now a comprehensive and robust new Byelaw 3 soon to be in place together with a corresponding enforcement system. The other main issue continues to be the replacement of the current main boat at a cost of several million pounds which is proving difficult to find. The Government and MMO are setting targets for the IFCA's but not providing them with appropriate resources. The NWIFCA has agreed to continue funding the annual coastal survey work on north to mid coastal Cumbria which is now in its 18th year. This will prove a very valuable data base when the new nuclear power station comes online and begins its extraction and discharge of warmed up sea water into the coastal zone. The NWIFCA has also agreed to formulate a byelaw stopping all fishing in the bass nursery area off the Heysham Power station outflows to prevent overexploitation of juvenile bass.

Other Marine and Coastal Issues concern the following:

- The Morecambe Bay Partnership and a proposed Local Nature Partnership.
- The Coastal Partnership Network.
- The North West Coastal Forum.
- The Copeland Coastal Partnership.
- The new proposed Cumbria Local Nature Partnership which will include coastal and estuarine areas.

As I mentioned in my Chairman's Report, I attended the introductory stakeholder's meeting of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership on Thursday 15th March at Penrith, representing the Duddon Estuary Partnership. This workshop was chaired and opened by Sir Martin Holdgate and Local Biodiversity Manager Graham Jackson-Pitt. I attended workshops concerned with Function, Priorities and Structure of the Cumbria Local Nature Partnership (CLNP).

There were about 60 attendees representing various conservation groups and local authorities including LDNPA, Cumbria Wildlife Trust, Cumbria Biodiversity Partnership, Natural England and Cumbria County Council.

The CLNP has initial funding of £17,000 with the potential to receive several million pounds if it goes ahead.

The vision for LNP's is that they will be self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, business and people. They will help their local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.

(ii) The question was asked about who was responsible for the provision and maintenance of life buoys situated around the Estuary? No one at the meeting could answer this although it was suggested it may be either county or borough councils or parish councils.

(iii) An item was raised concerning bridle path notices. These just indicate directions but no indication of potential hazards. It is assumed these are the responsibility of Cumbria Highways. Members are requested to try to identify possible notices around the Estuary that may require additional information that can be passed onto CH.

d. Nature Conservation:

Millom Nature Reserve:

It has been fairly quiet over the winter period. However, there are still ongoing problems with quad bike users damaging parts of the Reserve. The police have been called out several times. The new access barriers have been vandalised with the lock cut off. The next meeting of the Reserve Management Committee will be discussing possible solutions.

New remembrance seating has been installed near the Devonshire Road disabled access point and the other access off Devonshire Road is also now finished.

The Wildlife Group and Friends of the Reserve are planning a number of public activities to be held during the year. Bill Shaw is working with local schoolchildren on Reserve projects.

It is expected that UU will start their work on the coastal access path and Reserve to install the new groundwater pipe line. A bonus from this should be the creation of new Naterjack Toad pools and an improvement to the coastal access path surface.

New brown Local Nature Reserve signs have been installed at various points from near Millom Station down Devonshire Road directing visitors to the Reserve.

The Friends of MILNR will be holding their AGM on Monday 26th March at 7pm in the Millom Network Centre.

e. Unauthorised Commercial Activities:

A report of illegal dumping of waste on Askam beach was received. The Chairman was asked to contact Adam Larbalestier, EA (via minutes), to ask if anything can be done about this issue. Nicola Evens, NE, said she would try to action the issue of dog fouling and that commercial dog walkers require risk assessments when on National Trust, Natural England or Council owned land. Barry Doughty, Barrow BBC, informed members of the spraying of dog mess in Dalton which appeared successful.

f. Rail Liaison:

Barry Doughty, Barrow BBC, reported that Sellafield workers parking their cars in Askam were an ongoing problem. Jos Curwen, SLDC, stated the same problem occurs in Kirby and Foxfield. The Chairman was asked if he could contact Sellafield and various other agencies to see if this could be resolved. Jos also informed the meeting of a new signal system being installed just north of Kirby station.

6. AOB:

- a. Jos Curwen, SLDC, reported problems of a lack of gritting on the A595 over the winter period plus concerns about excessive speeds.
- b. L. Cragg, Kirkby Ireleth PC, asked if there was a possibility of funding being available for a viewing interpretation panel to be installed at Knoll End, Kirby as there were excellent views across the Estuary. The Chairman said he would contact Millom Rotary Club who recently installed something similar at the top of Millom Park, to find out who designed it and cost. He would also then approach the local quarry for support or quotes.
- c. Barry Doughty, Barrow BBC, suggested a future venue for a DECC meeting could be the Drill Hall in Dalton as he is a key holder.

7. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 18th July 2012, 7pm, the Victory Hall, Broughton-in-Furness.

Followed by Wednesday 7th November 2012, 7pm, Millom Network Centre, (AGM).

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked those attending and for their input and closed the meeting at 4.40pm.

Apologies for any incorrect or missing information but it is difficult to Chair a meeting and take full notes.

Brian Crawford

Chairman

DEP/DECC