

## DUDDON ESTUARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

### Minutes of the Duddon Estuary Consultative Committee meeting held at Marshside Methodist Church Hall, Kirkby in Furness on 10 November 2011 at 2:00pm.

Richard Scott, Walking for Health (Chair)  
Brian Crawford, NWIFCA (Vice Chair)  
Derek Lyon, FoLD  
Lesley Talbot, Environment Agency  
Neil Forbes, National Trust  
Barbara Copley, Kirkby Ireleth PC  
Wendy Battersby, Millom without PC  
Ian Dixon, NWIFCA  
Paul Pearson, CCC (notes)

L Cragg, Kirkby Ireleth PC  
Michael Jackson, Kirkby Ireleth PC  
Barry Doughty, Barrow BC  
Adam Larbalestier, Environment Agency  
George Cubiss, Ramblers Association  
Brian Wright, Millom without PC  
Jos Curwen, SLDC  
Richard Newman, CCC

#### 1. **Introductions and Apologies.**

Chairman welcome attendees to the meeting and acknowledged apologies that had been received from Jenny Wain, Pauline Preston, Cllrs John Murphy, Janette Jenkinson and Jack Park. Ian Dixon was welcomed to the meeting. Ian has transferred from the Environment Agency to NWIFCA and would be attending future meetings.

The meeting was informed of the death of Bob Mandale. Bob had been ill for sometime and was admitted to Furness General Hospital where he died. His funeral took place on Monday, 7 November 2011. He was well known in the community; active, although disabled, in supporting many local groups and has a keen naturalist living close to Hodbarrow Lagoon was able to enjoy the wildlife on the reserve.

#### 2. **Presentation by Lesley Talbot , Environment Agency – Bathing Water Project**

The Environment Agency gave a presentation about the revised Bathing Water Directive, and what it means for the three bathing waters in the Duddon Estuary, Haverigg, Roan Head and Askam-in-Furness.

The revised Bathing Water Directive comes in to force in 2015 and sets much tighter standards for our bathing waters. Water quality at all three Duddon Estuary bathing waters has improved significantly over the last 20 years, but we need to do more to ensure that these bathing waters continue to improve and meet the tighter standards of the revised Bathing Water Directive in 2015.

They are working with the water company and the local authority to ensure that the requirements of the revised Bathing Water Directive are met. They are also carrying out a number of investigations in this area to find and address other sources of pollution, such as diffuse agricultural and diffuse urban pollution.

#### 3. **Minutes of last meeting held 17 July 2011.**

Agreed as a true record and signed off by the Chairman.

#### 4. **Voting for new Chairman**

No nominations received prior to the meeting, but Brian Crawford was put forward by the retiring Chairman, Richard Scott at the meeting, and seconded by Derek Lyon and duly appointed by those attending. With Brian as Chairman, there was a need to appoint a Vice Chair. Derek Lyon was nominated and appointed by the group.

#### 5. **Matters arising**

Impact of the closure of cockle beds along the coast; from Wales to Scotland. Cockle beds in the Bay area are low, but the spat fall is looking good and so long as they are able to survive the winter the outlook is improving. Cockling issue to be discussed later on the agenda under (NWIFCA).

#### 6. **Standing items**

##### a. **Budget**

Since the last meeting there as been no expenditure and the balance stands at £4439. 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. Annual Report**

A copy of the annual report was circulated at the beginning of the meeting. This gave an account of the work the Partnership has been consulted on, involved with and supportive of during the past twelve months. Highlights of which were the responding, in support of Kirksanton, to the Government's consultation on nuclear new build and the subsequent removal of Kirksanton from the list of potential sites; discussing and taking action on issues such as rail liaison, shellfish gathering, coastal defences, unauthorised commercial activities and vehicle use on seashore. Richard thanked Jenny Wain for her support over the past 4 years.

**c. Energy Infrastructure**

To be addressed later in the agenda under item d.

**d. Marine & Coastal Issues**

**I. H2H Project**

Morecambe Bay Partnership has been successful in its application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and has been given £100K funding to develop the project. In achieving this status, the H2H project is guaranteed further funding up to £2m if the second phase application is approved. The project aims to draw together the cultural and heritage history of Morecambe Bay to create a community where locals can reconnect and restore their environment by creating a better place to live, to attract further investment and increase tourism.

**II. Islands of Barrow**

Linked in to the H2H project, the Islands of Barrow project is aiming to realise Barrow's regeneration through revitalising Barrow's industrial heritage as new visitor attraction to encourage eco-tourism and investment to the area. They also plan to capitalise on the underused assets e.g. Piel, Chapel and Foulney Islands, the SSSI's on the north and south of Walney, Roanhead and RSPB reserves and bird sanctuary.

**III. Copeland Coastal Partnership (CCP)**

BC had attended, on 19 October 2011 a meeting of CCP in Ravenglass and noted that the Partnership wasn't registered on the current membership and though it was something we should be part of and asked that the partnership vote to join. The meeting informed participants about potential initiatives and one that is of interest to the partnership is the proposed development of Haverigg foreshore with a new beachside footpath giving access to the disabled.

**Action: Group to sign up to CCP. PTP to initiate membership.**

**IV. NWIFCA**

BC gave an update; he is a full member and also sits on the Technical, Scientific and Byelaws (TSB) Sub-committee. BC regularly raises issues on the environmental impacts of offshore wind turbines and the potential National Grid routing for the new nuclear build. Members are sure to be aware of the situation at Lytham with regard to the cockle beds and the premature closure under health and safety. The closure is guaranteed to hit the commercial fisherman hard as they could lose thousands of pounds in revenue. NWIFCA will have to revisit the newly established Byelaw 3, relating to cockle gathering permits in light of this incident. NWIFCA is also looking at bait gathering and fishing in various areas around the bay, especially near to the outflows of Heysham Power Station where there is a serious problem. At the last meeting of the TSB Sub-committee a presentation was given by the Irish Sea Conservation Zone Project Manager on the final recommendations to the Marine Protected Areas (copy of the report and maps can be found on the ISCZ website).

**V. Offshore Wind Turbines**

With the proposed planned offshore windfarm developments in the Irish Sea in the pipeline, BC has strong concerns that the marine environment will be more impacted than that being stated. BC in his role with the NWIFCA and other organisations has had formal and informal discussions with the developers; his latest was with DONG at the public consultation held in Millom. DONG kindly sent a DVD that

contains information on the past three years post-construction monitoring done by the company which specifically details the effects on fish ecology, undersea noise and electromagnetic frequency monitoring. This and other updated results can be found on the website ([www.walneyextension.com](http://www.walneyextension.com)).

## **VI. National Grid Updates**

Both BC and RS have attended different forums where National Grid has presented. There were to be seven routing options for consultation but this has been reduced to six. Three of these involved sub-sea routes off the Cumbria coast and under Morecambe Bay, cables would carry 400kV supply which in BC's opinion, at this level would interfere with migratory fish and other marine sea life. The Grid expects to announce their preferred routes towards the end of January 2012.

## **e. Nature Conservation**

### **I. Millom Nature Reserve**

Brian Crawford was elected Chairman of the Millom Ironworks Local Nature Reserve Management Committee on the 11 October 2011. In 2011, the group have carried out a programme of identification and population mapping of species on that habitat the reserve and are planning a series of public events for 2012. One ongoing problem that will have to be addressed is Japanese Knotweed. The Committee are continuing to improve access on to the reserve and will be creating a new entrance and woodland walk in 2012. United Utilities are planning a new groundwater pipe through part of the reserve and in restitution have promised to help us with digging out of a new natterjack toad breeding pool.

## **f. Unauthorised Commercial Activities**

From around the area nothing to report. NWIFCA will be reviewing the byelaws on bait gathering in the future and ways to improve legislation.

## **g. Rail Liaison**

Network rail need to be informed that the level crossing at Saltcoats is illegal and not up to standard, with no hazard warning lights to indicate when a train is approaching.

**Action: Chair to write to Cumbria Rail User's Group to highlight this problem.**

## **7. AOB**

### **I. CCC's future Support**

The secretariat support from the County Council will no longer be available. Richard Newman explain that the Officer time was required elsewhere but agreed that support will be given to assist transition and up to and including the first meeting of the New Year but after that, the Partnership would need to find their own.

### **II. Concessionary Fares**

Councillor Doughty brought this to committee – with the County Council now the accountable body for issuing concessionary fares could the Partnership write to the Chief Executive of CCC and ascertain why they now only provide bus concessions and are no longer providing train passes and tokens for use on other means of transport (as previously Barrow and Copeland Borough Councils did)? This decision is impacting on those living in rural areas; if you don't live on a bus route or easily accessible to bus services you are being discriminated against.

**Action: Chair to write to CCC voicing the Partnership's concern.**

### **III Dates for Next Year.**

The following dates have been decided for next years' meetings. The venues will be confirmed nearer the time and so as to allow more people to attend this year (2012) there is to be two evening meetings.

**Tuesday 13 March 2012 (afternoon meeting)**

**Wednesday 18 July 2012 (night meeting)**

**Wednesday 7 November 2012 (AGM) (evening meeting)**