

ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

DRAFT MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE ALDE AND ORE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP HELD ON THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6.30PM BY ZOOM

PRESENT:

Nominated representatives

Tim Beach (TB) Chairman	Cllr. Snape Parish Council
Andrew Reid	Cllr. Suffolk County Council
Russ Rainger	Cllr. East Suffolk Council,
Jeremy Hinvre	Chair. Iken PC
Peter McGinity (PM)	Chair. Chillesford Parish Meeting
Edward Greenwell (EG)	IDB alternate
Alison Andrews (AA)	Alde and Ore Association
Harry Young	Business Representative

Chris Gill (CG)	Treasurer
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ADVISERS/ATTENDEES:

Giles Bloomfield (GB)	East Suffolk Internal Drainage Board (ESIDB)
David Kemp (DK)	Environment Agency (EA)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: 6

AGENDA

Apologies:

1. Frances Barnwell, Vice Chairman AOCPC, Andrew Cassy/Andrew Greenwell Boyton PC, Ray Herring Cllr. East Suffolk Council, Ben Coulter Butley, Capel St Andrew and Westside Parish , Peter Palmer Cllr. Aldeburgh TC, Bill Parker Cllr. Sudbourne Parish Council , Gary Wingrove Orford and Gedgrave Parish Council, Tunstall Parish Council, Jane Skepper IDB Alternate, J.Maxim and Elizabeth Stanton AOET, Ed Boyle Natural England, Andrew McDonald Comms Group.

2. **Declarations of interest**

Most Declarations of Interest forms had been completed.

3. **Minutes of the meeting on 24 March 2022**

These were agreed without amendment. (proposer PM, seconder DK)

4. **Matters arising from the meeting on 24 March 2022 not otherwise on the agenda**

None, all were to be covered under the agenda.

5. **IDB Update on the Outline Business Case submission.**

GB reported that further to the last minutes, everything IDB had been working towards had been done, and the Outline Business Case had been resubmitted to the Environment Agency. Its reworking had included updating the economic appraisal, funding calculator and new carbon calculator to support the investment programme. He had had constructive feedback from the local EA team on the revised Case and had made a few changes, particularly explaining clearly the differences in areas where changes in the funding calculator lead to greater eligibility so increasing the potential claim for grant. It was all moving forward.

DK said that EA were doing all they could locally to expedite the Business Case to make it look as professional as possible before it goes forward, Giles and his team had worked really hard to answer the points needing more detail or explanation and it was very close now to being forwarded to the National Project Assurance Board.

EG asked about whether the funding allocation had been pushed back a year and what happen to it, would it be continued. GB explained that although IDB had forecast capital works for this year, this would not now be possible as the environmental mitigation window had passed but the allocation was not lost and would simply be shifted forward a year. DK added that this was an accounting necessity so that the money could be released and used elsewhere this year, but the allocation remained there in the following year. EG was reassured.

The Chair said that following the AOCF meeting last March, as had been agreed he had written, with full support from the AOCF, to the Environment Agency local Director, copying to our MP Dr Therese Coffey and Sir James Bevan, CEO of the Environment Agency. He had asked for speed of completion in terms of the Iken case or a resolution which would decouple the Iken investigation from the Estuary Business Plan. The Director could say no more on the Iken investigation but suggested a meeting on the project with Mark Johnson and David Kemp. He with Frances Barnwell and Alison Andrews had then met with, EA: the positive result was that with the rewriting of the Business Plan, EA now confirmed that the two issues were decoupled, thus removing the obstacle to the Business Case going forward. He was now slightly more hopeful as the Business Case was almost ready to go up for scrutiny.

The Chair summarised the agenda item discussion, thanking Giles and David for their work, and saying that the Alde and Ore community were now in the hands of the IDB and Environment Agency for speedy progression of the application: and said that of course if there was anything anyone or body in the AOCF community could, we would endeavour to come back as quickly as possible.

6. Update on EA investigation on clay deposited at Iken

The Chairman said that he had heard nothing further and assumed that it was still ongoing.

8. Communications

i. **Posters:** AA had circulated the work of the Comms Group (Andrew McDonald , Emma Lloyd, IDB, Jane Maxim) with posters to explain to all what needed to be done and why it mattered to everyone for comments by the AOCF. She said might convert the posters as well into a virtual exhibition with CPE as well as posters. But she wanted to check we had the right messages with the right detail. For example, the version of the first slide now read, after taking Account of comments, as a wakeup call “A flood catastrophe is just a bad storm surge away ... We need to act” with at the bottom “it is our generation’s turn to take action”.

PG commented that 24 posters were a lot, were the messages as focussed as they might be? AA replied she agreed that there were a lot but the intention was to pick out posters to suit different audiences. TB said there is a tension between providing enough information for people who really want it and a headline grabbing attention and he thought the balance was there. We want to get to the point to use it soonest.

CG had sent in a number of suggestion but overall, much depends on where the slides were to be used and how much time people would have to read them- the slides are all there but need to be selected for different occasions. He saw the need for posters to be selected to suit different events.

GB advised that Slide 12 showing the flooded Hazlewood Marshes as an option might be mis-interpreted as being negative when for example creation of new habitats was also seen as a benefit, so a flooded house might be better. He also said that government policy was also changing and developing, moving from resilience to adaptation over time and so some flexibility and looking ahead was needed in any presentation. Also, grants were becoming available for, so he mentioned that saltmarshes offered many environmental benefits. There were also other important angles to be presented such as the economic importance of the water found in Iken and Gedgrave enabling production of vegetables and crops of value to the national economy which could be lost if the walls were let go. It was advisable to keep an eye on what government funding priorities were naming.

The Chair commented that we wanted to be able to get to the point to use the material as soon as possible. He said there was still an opportunity for one last look comment and invited people to send in any further comments they might have soon.

Action: All can send in comments

9. AOCF Admin Finance

i. AA reported that the only recent expenditure had been £150 for keeping the web site up to date, which she hoped that people looked at from time to time. There was some money around for our contribution when we get the poster production going.

ii. TB asked if the Environment Agency had any plans to continue the funding for estuary/coastal partnerships: DK reported that letters have been written and should be coming in the next month explaining the funding likely to come from EA, further to the £2,500 for this year.

9. Any other business

i. TB reported on behalf of the Trust about the Trust's on-going work doing all that could be done at this stage including keeping a profile. This had included a very successful fundraising event, the Flotilla from Aldeburgh to Orford on Sunday 4 September 2022. This had raised £45,000 net of costs and the Trust were very grateful to all who had contributed and participated.

ii. AA expressed thank to the Environment Agency for repairs being done to the front of the walls in the Aldeburgh section where the machinery had just arrived. These did not affect the project plan. The work was appreciated. DK said good progress was being made and hoped for the works to be done by the end of October.

iii. EG asked whether there were any plans for the area just south of the Aldeburgh Martello Tower where the crest of the shingle spit had gone. DK said EA were monitoring it and if they saw a need to do a project with enough to do would go in but at the moment they were not planning to go in but if they needed to they will.

10. Date of Next meeting

Subject to any new event or news, the next meeting would be on **Thursday 8 December at 6.30pm, to be decided whether by zoom or in Orford Town Hall nearer the time**

AA

20 October 2022