

## **MINSMERE LEVELS STAKEHOLDERS GROUP**

Notes of a meeting held at 1 Old Store Gardens, Eastbridge  
24 February 2008

Attended by:

John Keeble (Convenor)  
Jon Swallow  
David Robb  
Pauline English  
John Rea Price  
Judith Croton (note taker)

Apologies - Janet Lister

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2008 were agreed with minor amendments.
2. Matters arising  
All issues were dealt with under agenda items.
3. Background research  
DR reported on recent e-mail contact he has had with the Environment Agency (EA). In 2004 as part of the Minsmere Sea Defences Study the EA held a public consultation meeting. It was stated that this was a first stage consultation and that a further consultation and public meeting would take place. Nothing has been heard since then. DR e-mailed the EA (project manager Stuart Barbrook) who responded that the EA has been working on options for the coast but this work was interrupted by the November tidal surge. However, this has helped them develop models for future change to the coast. The EA plan to consult with their steering group before holding another public meeting, which will probably be in the middle of this year. EA will be happy to have contact with MLSG over this consultation.  
This group is concerned that the coastal defences study actually began in 2001 and it is not clear if anything has happened since.  
It was agreed that a copy of the e-mail correspondence between DR and the EA should be circulated with the minutes of today's meeting.
4. Preparation for formal launch of MLSG at an April public meeting.  
JK has spoken to Helen Jones about the use of the Jubilee Hall. She thinks a Friday night won't be a problem as the youth club could move to another day.  
It was agreed to go for 11 April at 7 30pm.  
We will invite the RSBP and David Andren from the Alde and Ore group but we will go ahead with this date if they cannot come. (JRP has

spoken to David Andren who has agreed in principle to come to a MLSG meeting and to speak at the public meeting.)

#### Outline of the programme

JK to chair and open the meeting

History of this group

Outline of the key players – Environment Agency, RSPB, National Trust etc (?DR)

Next steps

The wider picture and links with SCAR (David Andren)

#### Publicity

Put a notice in the next village newsletter (deadline end of this week).

Put a notice in the Yoxmere Fisherman

Once all details agreed, deliver a notice to all homes in Theberton and Eastbridge

Put up notices around the village and in Westleton and Middleton\*

Contact local landowners etc separately, e.g.

- i) Sizewell (DR will attend the Sizewell Stakeholders Group meeting in 2 weeks time)
- ii) Dowleys
- iii) Theberton Hall Farm (? Name of new owner)
- iv) George Watson (Middleton)
- v) Old Rectory, Middleton
- vi) Mr Mann, Scots Hall
- vii) Adnams (own Middleton Bell)
- viii) Andrew Blois (owns Caravan Park at Hinton and JK advises that he would like to get involved)

Have we heard from any of the parish councils that JRP wrote to? JS reported that the letter was read out at the Theberton and Eastbridge parish council meeting. The Chair (Clive Brown) suggested that as most of the marshes are in Leiston, this group should also contact Leiston cum Sizewell Town Council. It was agreed we should contact Joan Girling.

JK took the letter to Colin Fisher, clerk to Westleton Parish Council, who said he would take it to meeting that day. Nothing has been heard from them or from Middleton PC.

#### \*Poster

Logo, ? picture and bullet points

- Minsmere Flooding – will it affect me?
- Global warming, rises in sea level, poor drainage
- Reduced funding for protection
- What can we do about it?
- Join us at a public meeting to find out
- 11 April 2008 7 30pm Jubilee Hall, Theberton

What do we want to get from the public meeting?

- i) To form a properly constituted group (we should look at the constitutions of the other groups) – have a form at the meeting for people to sign up
- ii) Agree next steps, including making links with other groups

Do we have to pay to hire Jubilee Hall? Probably not as we are a village group but it would probably be a good idea to make a donation. JK agreed to find out what the hourly hire rate is.

It was agreed that we would not provide refreshments as this would slow everything down.

Jobs to be done

JK will confirm the date and book the Jubilee Hall

DR will work on what we want to say

DR will contact Joan Girling

JS and PE will work on the logo (Our Coast, Our Homes, Our Jobs) and the poster / flyer

JRP will speak to Margaret White about the newsletter and contact the Yoxmere Fisherman

JMC will produce minutes and deliver flyers to village homes

4. Issues to be discussed with Adam Rowlands from the RSPB at the meeting on Saturday 1 March at 4p.m.  
JRP thinks he is taking this meeting seriously. The RSPB is setting up a consultation to seek out the views of local communities following the refusal of lottery funding for the education centre on the Minsmere reserve.  
Our meeting should not be confrontational, but a way to improve to improve understanding and communications.  
The RSPB's agenda is likely to coincide with ours in the short and medium term but in the longer term they are likely to have other plans (e.g. moving to, and setting up reed beds at, Snape, buying land at Lakenheath).  
We should ask AR what are the RSPB's plans and what part AR would be prepared to play in this group. (The Alde and Ore Group have had much more encouragement from the RSPB than they have from the National Trust.)  
We should introduce ourselves individually, say if we have RSPB membership, including those who have resigned, and what our interests are etc.  
We should ask about progress with Scots Hall Cottages and about their policy on estate management in general.
5. There was no other business. The meeting finished at 4 30pm.
6. Date of Next Meeting Saturday 29 March 4pm