

MINSMERE LEVELS STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Brief note of special meeting held at Four Winds,
Eastbridge 27 June 2008

Attended by:

John Keeble (Convenor)
Jon Swallow
David Robb
Pauline English
Janet Lister
Nat Bacon
John Rea Price (secretary)

Apologies

Judith Croton (note taker)
Stephen Brett

1. The minutes of the last meeting held on 10 May were agreed, with the amendment that the £2 million VAT income that the Government was thought to be receiving came largely from dredging activity off the Norfolk coast.
2. Finance and administration
JRP reported that Leiston Press had quoted £45 + VAT for 250 business cards
Agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting
3. Pitt Report on 2007 flooding. Noted that this had been published and argued that anti-flood strategy should be refocused on urban areas and that East Anglia appeared to be disregarded as an area at risk
4. East Suffolk Catchment Flood Management Plan. Some members had now read this. Very short period for responses which had to be in by July 18. Minsmere was included in the large area designated for reduced maintenance activity, but it was difficult to comment other than in very general terms until we knew more about the existing management strategy. We would then need to know precisely how the forthcoming review proposed to modify this. Ian Hart's (District Engineer, IDB) response was supported and it was agreed that DR should draft one on similar lines stressing the conservation arguments.
5. Public Meeting 18 July
DR reported that Ian Hart was committed that evening, but would very much like to come on a future occasion.

The following sequence was agreed

- 1 Welcome JK
2. Coastal Management Strategy

JK and DR to report on Southwold meeting and what flowed from it (20 Minutes max)

3. Internal Drainage – Main Item – 40 minutes max

JRP to outline new structure, division of EA and IDB responsibilities and finance (so far as it is understood)

NB to describe Ian Hart's visit and inspection, and state of drains, with perceived priorities

JS to outline conservation issues, in particular those for the RSPB and SWT

4. General Discussion. JC to chair and co-ordinate as last time

5 Where do we go from here? – JRP, with invitation for more financial support.

6 Conclusion JK

6. The very attractive notice for the meeting was agreed, and DR agreed to co-ordinate production and display of this in village notice boards and pubs, with assistance of other members of the group DR would also liaise with JC regarding circulation to those who had indicated continuing interest. The majority had Email contacts, but a few could only be reached by mail.. Others who had an obvious interest – e.g. those in properties adjacent to No 7 Drain - should also be included.
7. Date of next meeting – to be fixed at the end of the Public Meeting