

**Towans Partnership
Draft Notes of Meeting on Thursday 7 April 2011
Passmore Edwards Institute, Hayle**

Present:

John Pollard CC (JP) Vice-Chair	Hayle Town / Cornwall Council	Alison Clough (AC)	Cornwall Council
Cllr John Bennett (JB)	Hayle Town Council	Tim Bird (TB)	Cornwall Council
Stella La Touche (SLT)	Landowner	Sue Nicholls (SN)	Cornwall Council
Ray Tovey CC (RT)	Cornwall Council	Terri Winchester (TW) (Notes)	Cornwall Council
Sally Foster (SF)	Gwithian Residents Association		
Nick Bird (NB)	Gwithian Rate Payers Association		
Mike Roberts (MR)			
Georgina Schofield (GS)	Community Archive/ Hayle Mill Pond Project		
Mr B Makin (BM)	National Trust		
Andrew McDouall(AM)	Natural England		
John Gorst (JG)	Hockin Trust		

1 Introductions

- JP as Vice-Chair welcomed all to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves
- JP asked for views on the partnerships continuation – opinions included: a valuable holistic forum bringing together all elements for Hayle, pro-active and re-active communication of local issues. TB confirmed CC commitment and SN advised that if it ceased a consequence could be that the Hayle Beach Owners meetings stop. The consensus of the meeting was that the partnership is valuable and should continue
- Terms of Reference circulated, reviewed and agreed as still relevant
- Membership reviewed and revised list attached – *Appendix 1*

Actions

2 Apologies

Ian Toy (IT) Chair	Gwithian Rate Payers Association
Derek Goodere (DG)	Gwithian Residents Association
Brian Pocock CC (BP)	Gwithian Gwinear Parish/Cornwall Council
Phil Drew (PD)	RNLI
Michael Williams (MW)	Owner of Lethlean Towans
Steve Crummay (SC)	Cornwall Council

Actions

3 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

- IT has stepped down as Chairman because he expects to be frequently out of the country this year
- Derek Goodere has indicated his willingness to become Chairman – JP proposed and JB seconded, 8 in favour
- JP is willing to continue as Vice-Chair – JB proposed and GS seconded

4 Notes of Meeting 13 October 2010

Accuracy

- a) Rob Jewell should be recorded as present
- b) 6c) should read condition rather than conditional

c) 6d) should read paths will narrow or disappear

The notes were amended and agreed as a accurate record of the meeting

Matters arising

d) 4.2) Gwithian Village Sewage Treatment

- Despite Environment Agency (EA) reporting that inspections met quality standards several individuals saw evidence of pollution. It was suggested that EA monitor outfall and SWW should be prosecuted for pollution of Rosewater Stream. RT requested views of MTP to a meeting he has planned with EA he has already raised issue with Julian German CC
- SN advised that Bathing Water Group and they will receive results from extra sampling tests from Gwithian and Godrevy. There will be beach safety signs on life guard beaches this year and wider public awareness from new 'Beach Profile' by 2012, it is a work in progress. Health Protection Agency advice is not to play in streams and wash hands before eating,
- RT referred to Lawrence Reed's radio interview and website, adding that he went into the sea himself, and was ill
- BM raised issue of no standards for rivers, JC reflected that Red River has always been polluted and used to run red
- SF has looked at EA maps on website and they sample from one point on the beach, she suggested other areas should be monitored
- JP suggested inviting Alan Hampshire to a MTP meeting at the end of the season, locals have an interest in the whole beach and EA should be pressured into wider monitoring

6q) Tyres - there are 2 other owners of the site

ALL

Invite

5 Progress and work Programme Report

Cornwall Council

Appendix 2 – Report

AC gave a presentation and provided additional information:

- a) Beach access – meeting with Geotechnical Engineer in October provided report but there is no funding at the moment
- b) Open vent pipe exposed at St Gothian – AC will ask her former colleague Gwyn Ebdale if he knows what it is (temporarily made safe before deciding how to deal with it)
- c) Finding a lot of wild flowers
- d) Ring necked duck spotted on St Gothians lake
- e) JC informed that there is ragwort on the Towans close to Gwithian Village – BTCV generally remove it by pulling, AC will check the area
- f) Alexandra plant is prolific on the Towans
- g) RT asked what happened to height barrier in top car park – AC informed that it had been vandalised
- h) SLT informed that bracken is spreading from outside entrance of Heyman towards Mexico Towans

AC

Updates From Other Organisations

Gwithian Gwinear Parish Council

- a) Talking to CC regarding 'Planning TM8' regarding size of chalets on dunes conservation area (TM8 will go in next year or two). JB suggested looking at Article 4 Directive

Camborne Town Council

- b) Impressed with Hale map and will be using it as an example

Cornwall Council – SN

- c) Awareness information will be on signage. If life guards involved in

incidents information is uploading to website and Nick Bird has webcam on life guard hut

National Trust

- d) Top field will be open for weekend
- e) Staff changes – new Visitor Services Officer Richard Pope will cover the car park but BM will still have an overview
- f) Trying to clear entrance to Sandsifter, currently used for free parking – difficult to control because Sandsifter have right of access
- g) Dog bins – local vet has sponsored bin by Red River at of bottom steps and another by The Sandsifter. NT install the bins and sponsor pays for emptying - SN interested in discussing arrangements

Hocking Trust

- h) Control size of building on Towans

Natural England

- i) Downsizing - 400 less staff nationally now with another 400 less by 2014. AM role will changing with restructure
Community Archive / Hayle Mill Pond Project
- j) Water levels higher with the replacement of 8" pipe
- k) Spoon Bill on pond this year
- l) Rubbish and alien weed (thought to have been planted for illegal harvesting) in top pond

Cornwall Council – TB

- m) Former E & H Service is dividing into separate services Transportation Waste and Environment (TWE) are the client and will set standards, Neighborhood Services as the contractor will deliver services. The restructure could impact on how CC manage the Towans
- n) TB is impressed with the enthusiasm of MTP members

Gwithian Green Residents Association

- o) Butterfly transect

7 Frequency Of Future Meetings

- a) The group agreed that meetings should be quarterly

8 Sand Extraction

- a) Harbour Master was due to report in March but the meeting was cancelled. Currently no dredging or application in at the moment

9 Any Other Business

- a) Environment client manager is Jon James, TB suggested inviting him to the next MTP meeting
- b) Contact telephone number for AC is 0300 1234 202

10 Date of Next Meeting

- Wednesday 29 June 2011 at 10am – Passmore Edwards booked
- Provisional future dates
- 28 September 2011 - Passmore Edwards booked
- 11 January 2012 – Venue not yet booked

SN/BM

Invite

Appendix 1

Name	Representation
Dick Goodere, Chair	Gwithian Residents Association
John Pollard CC, Vice-Chair	Cornwall Council
Tim Bird	Cornwall Council
Alison Clough	Cornwall Council
Mrs Vida Perrin	Clerk to Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Council
Councillor Mrs J Charman	Camborne Town Council
CLlr B Pocock	Gwinear-Gwithian Parish Council
G Ansell	Gwinear & District Footpaths Association
Andrew McDouall	Natural England
IanToy	Gwithian Towans Ratepayers Association
Harbour master	Hayle Harbour Association
Georgina Schofield	Community Archive/ Hayle Mill Pond Project
John Gorst	Hockin Trust
D Williams	DGW Sand Ltd
PV Trenchard	Beachside Leisure Holidays Ltd
C Harvey	St Ives Bay Holiday Park
Mr TPD and Mrs S La Touche	Riviere Estate
Paul St Pierre	RSPB
D Flumm	RSPB
CLlr AJL Bunt	Camborne Town Council
Mr M Williams	Sunhaven
Sgt Dobson	Hayle Police
Tim Bird	Cornwall Council
Alison Clough	Cornwall Council
Nick Marriott	Cornwall Wildlife Trust
June Donnery	Riviere Sands Holiday Park (send delegate)
Bill Makin	The National Trust
Sue Nicholls	Cornwall Council (Former Penwith)
Phil Drew	RNLI
Brian Keast	Environmental Enforcement Officer
Mrs Kirkland	Pulsack Manor
CLlr John Bennett	Hayle Town Council
Chris Matthews	Duchy of Cornwall Office
Frank Scott-Mance	Hayle Area Plan Partnership
Hayle Town Council	The Clerk
Rob Jewell	Chamber of Commerce
Doug Bell	Gwithian business
Ray Tovey CC	Cornwall Council
Adrian Bigg	British Horse Society
TO BE INVITED TO FUTURE MEETINGS	
Martin Thomas	Thomas Estate
Mr Newton-Childs	
ING Developments	
Sandsifter	Local business
Save Our Sands	Local Group info@sos-hayle.org.uk
PAPERS FOR INFORMATION	
Mr Jeremy Joslin	Hayle and District Chamber of Commerce
John Coombe CC	Hayle South
Mr D Hollow	Passmore Edwards Institute

Appendix 2

Towans Partnership Meeting

Report from Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer, Hayle Towans

7 April 2011.

Progress Report

- Scrub clearance carried out during winter close to the top car parks at Gwithian Towans LNR, around dragons teeth at roadside, around established areas of scrub & along Public Footpath to Gwithian Village. This is funded by Countryside Stewardship as the site is a SSSI. Also further scrub removal (including invasive garden escapes) followed by chemical treatment carried out by BTCV funded by Natural England.
- 4 ponies belonging to Natural England grazed 4 areas at Gwithian Towans LNR from October to early April. With advice from Andrew Mc Douall (NE), new sites close to the road were grazed this season to follow up where recent control of scrub & garden escapes had been carried out. Where the ponies are used for conservation grazing on land funded by Countryside Stewardship CC now have to pay for them & for their transport from the Lizard. Another 4 ponies grazed from December to April, firstly at Lethlean & then at Mexico Towans. A larger area was fenced at Mexico, than previous years & the ponies were kept there longer to encourage them to enter & break up dense areas of scrub to the north.
- In autumn 1/3 of pondweed was cleared from 2 small ponds at the La Touche's land at Mexico Towans.
- Regular site inspections & litterpicking at Gwithian Towans & St Gothian Sands LNR.
- Dave Clarke left & was succeeded by Tim Bird as CC's Countryside Manager for the West.
- Ballast provided to make up boggy area of path close to layby for St Gothian Sands LNR. Vegetation close to this path, strimmed.
- AC attended Gwithian Green Advisory Group Meetings. Surplus willow cut from the Green was used in spiling project to help stabilise the banks of Tehidy Lake.
- AC attended site meetings for advice on eroded beach access points at 'High Tide Access' (Gwithian/St Gothians) & Mexico Towans Lifeguard steps with CC's Geotechnical Engineer.
- CC's advice & permission given to developer at a property facing the Towans, to lay temporary access route whilst property is rebuilt.
- 'Anti dog fouling' graffiti regularly removed from gate at St Gothian Sands LNR.
- Additional fixed penalty signs provided & requests made for more frequent visits from dog wardens, as problems with bags of dog waste being dumped, particularly at Red River mouth at St Gothian Sands LNR.

- Sand Dunes Code of Conduct signs provided & replaced as required.
- A Towans resident raised concerns about mud & the size of speed ramps on the road to Gwithian Towans. This was passed for attention to CC's Property Dept who also have responsibility to maintain the car parks.

2011 Work Programme

- 2 Guided walks will be advertised in CC's Countryside Events Diary this summer, one at St Gothian Sands LNR & the other at Gwithian Towans LNR. It is hoped that others may be planned & advertised locally, if time permits.
- It is hoped that butterfly transects will be carried out in the summer months along regular routes on the 2 CC sites in the Towans. Additionally fixed point photography & botanical surveys may be resumed.
- Continued discussions to take place with Natural England & landowners about agreements to be drawn up for various sites on the Towans which would benefit from being entered into new Higher Level Stewardship Schemes.
- Duchy College students to carry out annual maintenance work at Peter's Point steps in September.
- Strimming close to car parks & main paths to the Towans to be carried out as required in the summer. Roadside vegetation (on lane to Towans) to be cleared if necessary.
- Ragwort removal to be carried out on CC sites that are grazed at Gwithian Towans.
- Countryside Information - the noticeboards near Sandsifter & St Gothian Sands LNRs will be maintained with current information. Discussions with Natural England taking place about the provision of vandal-proof noticeboards at the Top Car parks at Gwithian Towans.
- CC to regularly provide countryside information for new 'Gwithian Beach' website to be set up by the Beach Owners Management Group.
- Open vent pipe at St Gothian Sands LNR to be capped.
- Duchy College students undertaking surveys at St Gothian Sands LNR.
- Dragon's teeth repairs & replacement works planned along lane to Gwithian Towans.