

LYME REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

COASTAL FORUM MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH MARCH 2011

Chairman: Cllr O. Lovell

LRTC: Cllr Mrs. A. Bradbury, Cllr Miss L. Campbell, Cllr Ms. S. Holman, Cllr Mrs. L. Jenkin, Cllr D. Turner, Cllr P. Williams and Cllr S. Williams

WDDC: Mr. N. Browning

Guests: Prof. D. Brunsdon, K. Dibben, D. Edwards (LymeForward), I. Etherington, M. Etherington, M. Hedges, J. Hedley-Tuffs, P. Howse (Albany Guest House), A. Maslen (Lyme Regis News), G. Ottewell, G. Peed, P. Peed, A. Sankey, P. Sankey, J. Sargant and D. Venes

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs. M. Ellis (Lyme Regis Town Council), M. Furber, T. Gedge (Boat Building Academy), D. Hallett, A. Sargant, J. Tesoriere, C. Thomas, G. Thomas, B. Thornber

Matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting

There were no matters arising from the notes of the previous meeting.

Phase IV Coast Protection Scheme

In respect of Phase V (the Cobb), Atkins had completed their monitoring of the structure of the Cobb and found nothing significant. Monitoring of the Cobb would continue. Mr. N. Browning also advised that the May 2008 landslide had continued to progress inland.

Approvals and funding

Mr. N. Browning reminded those present of the Phase IV plans. All the previously approved lead-in work was now completed. The planning consent was in place, with attached conditions, the statutory consultees including landowners affected by the work, had been consulted.

Funding for the lead-in work had been provided by the Environment Agency, West Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council. Funding for the main scheme was to come from several bodies. The West Dorset District Council Executive Committee had authorised up to £600,000 and this had been confirmed by the Full Council recently. Dorset County Council had made provision for 20% of the estimated total cost. The Environment Agency National Review Group considered an application for Defra funding in June 2010. Questions raised by the Environment Agency's Large Project Review Group were resolved by November 2010 and a letter of technical approval was received in February 2011. Approval of coastal protection projects is a two stage process, so full (financial) approval will be determined following assessment of tenders for the main design and build contract, programmed for spring 2012.

Future work/programme

A current programme of works and expenditure profile were shown to those present. The next major step was to appoint a supervising consultant and then the main construction contract procurement process would begin. The main contract would run through the 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years with ecological advance works taking place prior to this. Treatment of Japanese Knotweed had already started.

Complying with European laws, including a requirement to give formal notice in the European Journal, meant that it would take at least six months to complete the tendering process and select the main contractor.

There were a number of government initiatives that could impact on the scheme.

- Funding for Defra had been reduced by 29%.
- The Shoreline Management Plan 2 process was continuing. West Dorset District Council had formally approved the West Dorset part of the plan but East Devon District Council had not approved their part as yet. The plan was not yet formally adopted.
- The Coastal Change Pathfinder scheme encouraged local communities to become increasingly self-sufficient and resilient. Dorset County Council was leading on this.
- Defra and the Environment Agency were developing Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management plans.
- Consultation was taking place on future funding arrangements for flood and coastal erosion defence schemes. The main concern raised by West Dorset District Council was that there was no satisfactory basis for estimating what grant would be available for coastal defence schemes and that the level of contributions expected from local residents and businesses was unrealistic.

Coastal Slope and Beach Monitoring

Instruments in boreholes in the meadows above the Football Club showed that the top 5m of land was moving progressively, but only by a few millimetres each year. As expected, there were also signs of minor ground movement on known slip planes lower down the slopes.

Monitoring of the seafront gardens during the Marine Parade Shelters redevelopment works showed that the piles and counterfort drains behind the Shelters were performing well. The measured ground movements were well within the range expected following completion of the Phase II scheme.

Parameters set for beach levels and gradients had not been exceeded and the total volume of beach material had held well. There had been hardly any movement in the Sand Bar. Mr. N. Browning was generally happy with the performance of the beach in coast defence terms.

Questions and Discussion

Those present briefly discussed the presentation with Mr. N. Browning, before Cllr O. Lovell thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 22nd November 2011