

Present: Cllrs. Clare, Goldie, and Plater

In the Chair: Cllr St Joseph

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

1. Chairman

Resolved: to appoint Cllr St Joseph as the Chairman of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee. Unanimously agreed.

2. Vice-Chairman

Resolved: to appoint Cllr Clare as the Vice-Chairman of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee. Unanimously agreed.

3. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Mr Eastham and Mr Parmenter.

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Clare disclosed a personal interest, as he is a berth holder at Tollesbury Marina.

Cllr Goldie disclosed a personal interest, as she is the owner for The Marina.

5. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

6. Minutes

Resolved: The Minutes of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee Meeting held on 3rd August 2022 be approved as a true record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

Matters arising from the Minutes

Navigation buoys displaying speed limit – To be discussed with the Fairways Committee.

Signage – New signage was displayed advising users of the area that the road is liable to tidal flooding. Vehicles are still parking in the area. No further action for the time being.

4 knot sign – This had not yet been replaced.

Action: Clerk to speak to Andrew and Ben.

7. Improvement Works

More stone had been laid at Woodrolfe Hard, which has enlarged the area. It is intended to lay more stones before the start of the season (Possible dates in

March 2023, taking account of the tides, are: 11 or 25 March, when HW is soon after lunch).

Action: The Chairman to arrange a working party to tidy the area.

The underwater obstruction signs need replacing.

Action: Clerk to obtain costings for 4 new signs.

The Chairman circulated some pictures which showed some cracks in the seawall.

Action: As a preventative measure, CTI sealant will be purchased and applied to the cracks. Chairman to arrange.

8. Precept 2023/24

The Committee considered the funds that would be required for the general running of Woodrolfe Hard in the next financial year.

Rent (Lease from Crown Estate and FACT)	£440
Misc.	£350

9. Other Issues

The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding the navigation channels and the areas of Woodrolfe Creek and South Channel which are silting up. The Vice-Chairman reported that Roger Gaspar and Ben Parmenter had conducted a survey. The results are already held by Ben Parmenter and have since been passed to the Chairman, to enable consideration of some maintenance dredging being carried out in Woodrolfe Creek. The Committee were, in principle, in favour of dredging in Woodrolfe Creek, but not in South Channel, where sustainability is uncertain and North Channel is an available alternative. North Channel is not buoyed at present, and it was noted that Trinity House approval would be needed to switch primary navigation from South Channel to North Channel. Currently, navigation buoyage is funded by Tollesbury Marina, and the cost is not shared among all users.

Action: The Chairman to discuss these matters further with Ben Parmenter.

Cllr Plater reported that it had been suggested that the Marine Stakeholder Group merges with the Tollesbury Climate Partnership Marine Group (TCPMG). The TCPMG are thinking about ways how the merger of the two groups could work.

It was reported that there had been no update from the Fairways Committee, and the Parish Council were not aware that the group had recently met.

Action: The Chairman, who is also the Parish Council Representative on the Fairways Committee, to request an update from the Fairways Committee.

The Chairman reported that a Go-Pro was set up on the Hard for 24 hours, and it recorded between 40-50 users of the Hard.

There are two large wooden posts in the vicinity of the sluice which could be a danger to swimmers jumping into the creek when the tide is in, as they are below the surface and cannot be seen.

The Clerk had raised this with FACT as it is on Tolfish Hump, and Andrew Eastham had advised that he was working on a solution, which might see the posts cut off at their bases if they are no longer serving any practical purpose.
Action: The Clerk to follow up.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee will be held on:
Monday 6th February 2023.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed.....Date:.....