

Present: Cllrs. Goldie, and Plater and Mr B Parmenter

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 Cllr Clare and Mr Eastham,

4. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Goldie disclosed a personal interest, as she owns The Marina.

Mr Parmenter disclosed a personal interest, as he is the Secretary for Tollesbury Fairways Committee and is a member of Tollesbury Sailing Club and Tollesbury Cruising Club.

5. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

6. Minutes

Resolved: The Minutes of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee Meeting held on 14th November 2022 be approved as a true record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

7. Improvement Works

The pinboard in the Woodrolfe Hard noticeboard required trimming.

Action: Clerk is to give the keys to the Chairman, and he will arrange to trim the pinboard.

The Clerk advised that FACT was planning to extend the posts (in the vicinity of the sluice) above water so they are visible rather than removed.

Action: Chairman to speak to FACT to find out further information on the proposed works.

The mooring buoys could do with being moving along to ensure that the gap stays 1½ vehicles width so that dinghies do not drift onto the road.

Action: Mr Parmenter to look into further.

It is planned to lay more stone/hoggin on the Hard in September/October. A working party would be arranged.

The Clerk displayed a photograph showing the Hard in 1955 and 2022 (Photograph 1).

Action: Information on costings for repositing the mooring buoys and purchase of stone is to be provided to the Clerk so that the Parish Council can approve the expenditure.

Cllr Goldie reported that Highways had repainted the yellow lines at Woodrolfe Hard.

8. Other Issues

Cllr St Joseph stated that the outflow from salt pool is important due to the flushing effect in the creek. The signage is fine. Only one boat with a motor board over 50hp had been seen launching on the Hard. Paddleboarding is getting increasingly popular, and they are launching on Tolfish Hump.

Ben reported that he had been contacted by a resident who advised that many people were swimming and paddleboarding, which could be dangerous due to the boats coming in. Is there a sign/notice indicating it is a 'working Hard'?

Action: Signage to be considered.

Cllr St Joseph advised that a new sign has been displayed around the Wick advising birds are nesting on beaches. Is this something we also need on the Hard because of the boating interest? Cllr St Joseph stated that a marine version of the sign would be useful. Cllr St Joseph had emailed Gary Sung, the officer responsible for the RAMS project, and requested he have a meeting with the Parish Council. To date, there has been no reply.

At a recent meeting he had attended, the RSPB gave a presentation about a land management project they and the Essex Wildlife Trust are putting together. They are focussing on the Colne and Blackwater catchment. The Chairman advised that he would raise on behalf of the landowners that owned saltmarsh rather than land since the project is for conservation and restoration.

Photographs 2, 3, and 4 were displayed, showing ideas for protecting saltmarsh. Photo 2 showed the use of coconut fibre rolls. Photo 3 showed recharged mud that had been pumped in. Photo 4 shows the use of rock rolls.

The photos showed what was out there, what various groups were funding, and if we considered maintaining the saltmarsh to maintain the existing geography.

Action: Mr Parmenter to ask Atkinson Farms if they would be interested in signing up as a landowner in a large group (Landscape Recovery) for landscape restoration.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee will be held on:
Monday 4th September 2023.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29 pm.

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

