

DRAFT MINUTES

Pagham Harbour Contract Management Committee

Tuesday 15 November 2013

Present:

- WSCC: Cllr Margaret Whitehead; Charlotte Eastley (Countryside Services Manager)
- RSPB: Rob Carver (Pagham Harbour Manager); Adrian Thomas (Project Manager)

1. No apologies

2. Minutes from last meeting signed off

3. RSPB update

Visitor Centre

- First phase refurbishment completed May 2012 – very positive feedback since.

Events programme

- Up to 50 people (30 children) at a time attended family events during the summer holidays.
- New programme out for Oct 13 - March 14.
- Hire of Nature Trail packs proving popular with families
-

Education

- 12 schools (10 Primary, 2 Secondary) with 500 pupils visited June-Oct.
- Education Officer left in August to run her business. Winter is the quiet period; we will look at how best to fill the gap in the New Year.

Wildlife Explorers group

- Children's weekend club (once a month) to be launched at the end of November (a year ahead of schedule), thanks to the recruitment of 3 volunteer leaders and funding from Friends of Pagham Harbour
- MW recommended seeking potential CIF funding

Volunteers

- Additional volunteers have been taken on to assist with wildlife surveys, practical tasks and administration. There has also been great interest in the new Reserve Guides role which extends the Visitor Welcome beyond the Centre. Recruitment and management has been greatly assisted by a volunteer coordinator.

External Funding

- Both Environmental Stewardship and Woodland Improvement Grants have been renewed, with the help on the former from CE. The latter to commence in April 2014.

Land agreements

- Agreements with ADC and CDC signed for the foreshore.

Pagham Rife

- All maintenance completed by EA during October (other than small sections inaccessible by machinery to be cleared by hand in November)

Pagham Spit Hide

- Currently exploring alternatives to the existing traditional structure, to prevent misuse

Pagham Lagoon

- Meeting with stakeholders in September (Pagham Beach Holdings Limited, Natural England, Environment Agency, Southern Water, Church Farm, WSCC and CDC), to look at the issue of water quality issues in the lagoon. NE will undertake a condition assessment next year. SW and PBHL willing to part-fund a further study by Brighton University in 2015. EA investigating what ongoing reactive monitoring they are able to offer during storm events with support from Church Farm. Awaiting outcome of Causeway flood defence ground investigations from EA.

Boating Code of Conduct

- The issue has been resolved between a private landowner and EA, which means a small area of land does not need to go into the Code of Conduct area
- The map has been revised accordingly, and can now go live
- ACTION: CE to inform Code of Conduct group
- ACTION: RSPB to put Code onto website
- Map showing voluntary refuge / boat-free areas to be displayed in the Visitor Centre.
- Information board at Sidlesham Quay to form part of the site signage and interpretation for which funding is being sought.

Breeding birds

- Success on Tern Island and Church Norton shingle spit for many shorebird species. Black-headed and Mediterranean gull nested for the first time, the former raising a number of young. No success with Little Terns this year but Life+ European funding is being sought for the restoration of Tern Island and improved protection measures for both here and the spit.

Infrastructure improvements

- RSPB would like to undertake various works to improve the visitor experience on the landfill. However, due to the landfill liability and the insurance required, this will best be achieved by packaging up work into blocks in calendar years; the first block will aim for 2014-15.

Improvements for disabled access to Visitor Centre and Radar toilet.

- A small package of work is being planned immediately adjacent to the visitor centre to improve the pathways and access to the Radar toilet
- WSCC will need to see the spec and approve before it can be progressed

4 Finances between WSCC and RSPB

All up to date

5. AOB

None

A partnership for
wildlife and people

