



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **Pagham Harbour Contract Management Committee**

Monday 8 October 2012

Present:

- WSCC: Cllr Mike Coleman; Charlotte Eastley (Countryside Services Manager)
- RSPB: Nick Brooks (West Sussex Reserves Manager); Rob Carver (Pagham Harbour Manager); Adrian Thomas (Project Manager)

1. No apologies

2. Notes from last meeting signed off

#### **3. Boating Code of Conduct.**

- WSCC has held its final meeting with the representatives from local stakeholder groups that wanted to be involved. The final draft of the Code, and its accompanying map, was agreed.
- Stakeholders are seeking permission for their logos to be used on the document.
- WSCC will then need to pass the draft by the Environment Agency (as the landowner where the Code will apply) and Natural England (as the government's advisor for nationally protected sites).
- Once the code is signed off, the next stage will be for WSCC to talk to the RSPB about how best to communicate the code as part of its wider signage review of the whole LNR, and share those plans with stakeholders.

#### **4. Harbour Road**

Pagham Beach Holdings Ltd (PBHL) has written to WSCC to say it will padlock the gate at the entrance to Pagham Spit car park on 19 Oct because of the alleged 'nuisance' being caused by vehicles using Harbour Road to undertake events and education visits and management visits, as is permitted in the lease and required by WSCC. It was noted by the on-site management team that, since July, education and management visits have averaged less than four visits per month.

In response, WSCC has asked to meet PBHL, and suggested that RSPB attends if PBHL wish that. The request has been made in two letters, two emails and in an answerphone message, but PBHL has not responded. If PBHL does not respond to WSCC's request for a meeting to discuss the matter before the 19th October, the matter will be passed to the Council's litigation team.

#### **5. LNR agreements**

RSPB is making good progress with establishing whether landowners within the LNR wish to sign up to tripartite agreements, although there is no hurry as the agreements are still extant and the RSPB's isn't required to be a signatory at this stage on those agreements. A draft of the proposed new agreement has been sent to relevant landowners. The RSPB is holding an informal evening with landowners to discuss this further.

#### **6. Pagham Harbour Local Communities Forum.**

The date and venue have been set as Thursday 29 November, 7.30-9pm, at Hunston Village Hall. This has been made public through the RSPB's e-update to interested parties. It will be further promoted nearer the date.

### **7. Draft Management Plan consultation**

The draft Management Plan goes to public consultation on 13 Oct, for four weeks. A summary document has been produced of the main plan to help the public access the key objectives, although people will still be able to download the full plan if they choose to. A press release was sent to advertise the consultation and the drop-in day at the Visitor Centre on 13 Oct. An extra drop-in day is being added on 3 Nov, towards the end of the consultation.

### **8. Small-scale refit to existing Visitor Centre**

WSCC and the Environment Agency have approved the small-scale plans for upgrading the existing Visitor Centre to improve it in the short-term. The key element is a new partition wall which will give staff and volunteers more space to work. It is hoped work will complete by the end of the calendar year, although this may run into early 2014.

### **9. Pagham North Wall**

- RSPB has begun discussions with WSCC (as highways authority) and interested parties regarding aspirations for sensitive access improvements to the North Wall to improve it for less able users.
- No decisions have yet been made; the RSPB will continue to develop ideas and share any plans with local residents and stakeholders before they are taken forward.

### **10 Logistics re finances between WSCC and RSPB**

All progressing well

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