

Pagham Harbour Contract Management Meeting

3rd December 2014

Pagham Visitor Centre

Present

Cllr Bernard Smith – County Councillor (WSCC)

Charlotte Weller – Countryside Services Manager (WSCC)

Rob Carver – Pagham Reserve Manager (RSPB)

Apologies

Mark Fletcher – South East Reserves Manager

Notes from the last meeting

Accuracy of the last minutes were agreed

RSPB and WSCC have met to discuss the re designation process and agreed the process of re declaring the boundary.

ACTION - RC to speak with Peter Wilderspin (PW) about the North Wall not being part of the Reserve and feedback to CW.

Q&A sheet has been developed for the planned drop in event which will be held at the Reserve.

ACTION - RC to make sure copies are also available for the Communities Forum.

ACTION - RC to add the annual report to the minutes of the last Contract Management Meeting so it is available on the RSPB website

LNR Agreements and Re declaration update

RC presented a summary of the latest position regarding agreements in the Reserve.

ACTION - CW to update PW on the latest correspondence with Pagham Beach Holdings Ltd.

ACTION – CW to confirm with WSCC Legal Services the Council's position on the Church Commissioners, Crown Estate, EA and Bourne Leisure and report to PW.

The RSPB will be writing to all land owners to explain the re declaration process and confirming with them that they are happy for their land to be included in the consultation

RC is attempting to attend the January meetings of the Parish Councils to discuss the matter with them.

ACTION - RC to confirm when he has the dates agreed

Drop in event will be held in February

Finance

CW confirmed WSCC had been making the quarterly payments to the RSPB

RC reported that Emma Allen is working at Pagham 1 day a week and is applying for Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) for the uplift. She is also approaching other parties who may wish to contribute to the works. The bid for HLF will help deliver approx. £280,000 worth of work and includes other projects around the Reserve.

An Expression of Interest has been submitted and the application will be submitted shortly.

Site Managers Update

RC provided an update which covered the following;

- All work linked to the external funding is on track
- Surveys have been completed on Pagham Lagoon and the report is expected Dec/Jan
- The arable creation scheme on Slipe Field is continuing
- Have had a good year for Little Tern breeding pairs and young. Common Tern numbers have also been very good
- Cameras have been placed to monitor breeding birds and specifically predation. They recorded foxes taking Black Headed Gull chicks so fencing was reinforced
- A five year European Funded Little Tern project commenced in 2014 and includes a seasonal People Engagement Officer (Mar – Aug), employed to raise awareness of the species.
- Overwintering interests are doing very well despite the mild weather
- 22 events were run over the summer
- Winter events programme is being developed and will run from Jan – April.
- There were 2 school visits late in the summer and 4 further visits in the autumn – total of 529 pupils visiting the Nature Reserve
- Visitor satisfaction survey results have been positive overall (approx. 95%)
- Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme due in Feb – run by Visit England

RC confirmed he would be provide an update for the Communities Forum meeting the next week.

Infrastructure Projects Update

The RSPB are planning to replace the toilet block and resurface the car park at Church Norton in 2015.

They will also be replacing the Ferry Pool hide, building a viewing structure along the tramway and upgrading trails in 2016. The improvements will be delivered at the same time as the EA inner harbour defence works to allow for co-ordination.

RC has spoken with the EA and they have agreed that the sign at the entrance of the Harbour will be removed.

ACTION – RC to confirm when the sign will be removed.

The RSPB has identified the necessary insurance required for works on the old landfill site.

Communities Forum Agenda

The group considered the actions which should have been completed for the Communities Forum;

ACTION – RC to make sure the temporary sign is put up at Siddlesham Quay re/boating in Pagham Harbour

ACTION – RC to confirm with the EA when they will be removing the sign at the entrance to the harbour

ACTION – RC to produce a slide for the Communities Form to explain the process of the re designation of the LNR boundary.

ACTION – CW to follow up on info she had been sent re. jetskis and their consideration under the Boating Code of Conduct.

ACTION – RC to investigate options around enforcing speed restrictions in the harbour.

AOB

None