

NORTH SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

Working party discussion with the Environment Agency on Saturday 21 January 2012

Present: Council: HS, SB, JP, RM, TC, JH, JL, ND, SP. EA: Mike Dugher and Emma Stevens et al.

1. Disabled Parking Bays – it was requested that if feasible that the Disabled parking bays be raised in such a way to enable people to be able to see out over the Sea Bank and/or Inter Tidal area from the vehicle. This would allow those with limited/no mobility to be able to view the site from the vehicle.

Action: MD/EA to consider whether this is achievable

2. Car Park Generally – there are no plans to place any gate or height restriction on the Car Park, as at present, or to restrict access at certain times for example. There is no provision for coaches to park, but the turning area is sufficient to allow passengers to be dropped off/collected.

3. Provision of Toilets/other visitor facilities – If it was considered desirable to create visitor facilities, such as a toilet block and/or food outlet/visitor information & gifts for example, then it was felt that this should be an enterprise which could be undertaken by a small group or someone from within the local community. This could include the car parking arrangements, which could include charging for parking, for example. The EA could put out a request for an Expression of Interest in running such a venture via the Communication Magazine. The main point that emerged is that any infrastructure for electric, water and building footings, need to be catered for at the early stages; this is not something that could easily be done at a later stage if it emerged that there was significant need for toilet facilities for example.

Action: Councillors to discuss on Monday 23rd and let EA know views as to how this could go forward. MD/EA to look at wording for next issue of Communication if relevant – NB 10 Feb deadline.

4. Highways Improvements to Marsh Lane – this will be undertaken from the turning to the Grange down to Stonebridge. A request was made that this widening should be from the turning to Ark Road, which is well before the turning to the Grange/Grange Lane, and where the road starts to narrow/deteriorate. What measures could be taken to assist householders/property holders on Marsh Lane?

Action: MD/EA – consultation with affected home/property owners on Marsh Lane about what measures they feel would help, highways permitting, eg engineer higher curbs to prevent parking on verge. MD/EA to discuss with Highways the possibility of the works commencing at an earlier point at the junction of Ark Road, and what measures would be permitted.

5. Footpath Consultation – the existing footpath along the dunes will be left until it reaches the breach, then be extinguished for 40metres, and recommence again the other side of the breach. A new footpath will be initiated along the top of the bank around the inter-tidal area, which will join up with the path from Grainthorpe at the other side of the breach. There will also be a permissive path around a small circular walk near the car park. Concerns were expressed regarding people trying to cross the haven, particularly those on horseback who ride along the roadway and across the sluice top of the haven at Pye's Hall now. Requests from parishioners had been received to make the path a bridleway. The possibilities of this were discussed, and issues of route, safety and risk, cost, etc. Consultation now started with drop-in session today, formal consultation to ELDC will be in about 2 months time.

Action: Council to formally consider the request to make the path a bridleway at the meeting on Monday 23rd. MD/EA to submit formal footpath paperwork to ELDC.

6. Security issues – EA are considering fencing off the whole site with secure fencing. Some issues had arisen with theft of diesel etc and concerns were expressed re the vetting of security staff and staff working on site, particularly given the remoteness of the site and those living nearby.

7. Day to Day Liaison – MD/EA updated on previous discussion re independent person to act as liaison point.

Action: Clerk of works seems to be the most relevant person to be initial point of contact for the Parish Clerk on behalf of the Council, with matters escalated to Mike Dugher if not solved in reasonable timescale or outside remit of Clerk of Works.

8. Future Management of the Site – the employment of someone from the village to manage/warden the site was considered highly desirable. Concerns were expressed regarding the future promotion of the site, whoever manages it, which tied back into the issue of visitor facilities and toilet provision.

Action: MD/EA to consider the issue of a local warden and how it could be achieved if training/funding was required. Councillors to consider if they wish to visit other sites such as South Cave, Freiston Shore, or Alkborough to see the facilities there and how managed.

9. Next Steps

Actions:

- **MD/EA to leave copies of the information used for the Working Group discussion and also a note of the comments received from members of the public attending the drop-in session so these can be available for the Council Meeting on 23rd January.**
- **Clerk to place the Realignment Project as a standing item on the Monthly Parish Council Meeting Agenda until further notice.**
- **weekly update discussion between Clerk/EA with information/Q&A posted and updated weekly on Parish Website/Notice Board.**
- **Specific issues/events such as the movement of heavy plant, to be noted and resolved beforehand.**
- **MD/EA staff (possibly Mark or Emma) to attend PC monthly meetings as relevant/required.**

Sheila Pearce
Parish Clerk