

RIVER DART NON BENEFICIARY GROUP (DNB).

Chairman; Councillor John Baron
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Secretary; Mrs Tracy Rowe
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Minutes of Meeting held in Totnes **on Thursday 8th October 2009** **at 7.30 p.m.**

Present

Councillor John Baron (Chairman)	JB	Dittisham
Mr John Dingle	JD	D & K Society
Councillor Ian Longrigg	IL	SHDC
Councillor Jonathan Hawkins	JH	Kingswear SHDC, DCC
Councillor Ian Slatter	IS	Totnes

DHNA

Mrs Sue Pudduck	SP	DHNA Board
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Visitors

Mr Rob Hopkins	RH	Transition Town Totnes
Councillor Peter Pudduck	PP	Kingswear
Mr Phil Sheardown	PS	Chairman CUG
Mr Jonathan Weekes	JW	RAMROG
Mr Nigel Mortimer	NM	South Hams Estuary Officer
Dr Joddy Chapman	JC	Tidal Generation
Dr Edward Lovesey	EL	Tidal Generation
Mrs Gillian Lovesey	GL	Tidal Generation
Dr Geoffrey Haggis	GH	Tidal Generation
Mrs Liza Gibbon	LG	

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from:-

Councillor Becky Fry	- Cornworthy
Councillor Graham Sowerby	- Kingswear
Councillor Terry Connolly	- Ashprington
Councillor John Robinson	- Stoke Gabriel
Councillor Richard Rendle	- Dartmouth
Mr Simon Ellyatt	- Chairman Dart Harbour Board.
Captain David White	- Harbourmaster
Mr Roger Jobson	- Chairman RAMROG

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2009, in Dartmouth, were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising.

Higher Ferry.

As neither RR or GS were present SP reported that the Harbourmaster had raised the issues on the lighting – the flashing lights would be made larger and other lights would be lowered towards the river. There had been a problem with the position of the chain and a vehicle had been caught on the chain.

JH reported that the fears of traffic problems raised by residents of Kingswear had all dissipated.

JD added that all the residents of Dartmouth were delighted.

The Chairman welcomed the guest speaker Mr Rob Hopkins, the originator of what was now the worldwide ‘Transition’ movement.

RH explained that the Transition Network supported communities around the world.

He showed those present a graph demonstrating “oil age” and the petroleum interval. Most people assumed that oil would always be available but the

world was running out of oil that was cheap and easy to find. Each person's annual consumption of oil was 9 –11 barrels; in 1981 use had passed production. RH explained that “peak oil” was the point when most oil had been produced. 64 nations had peaked and were in decline. All the world's large and easy to access finds were all in use. The UK was an increasing importer of energy. Net energy was falling; it was taking more energy to produce oil. By 2016 the UK would be importing 80% of its natural gas and was now a net energy importer when energy was expensive.

RH explained that climate change was happening far faster than expected. Energy was taken for granted and the transition response was proactive, with a “thinking creatively” approach.

The Transition approach had 7 key solutions focused principles:-

- i) Positive visioning e.g. what would Totnes look like living within a positive carbon footprint?
- ii) Help people access good information and trust them to make good decisions
- iii) Inclusion and openness
- iv) Enabling, Sharing and Networking
- v) Building Resilience e.g. how to design into a system the ability to withstand shock.
- vi) Inner and outer transition
- vii) Decision making at the appropriate level.

RH informed the meeting that there were 250 transition projects currently up and running.

In Totnes the following schemes had been established:-

- A local food directory
- A garden share scheme
- Re-skilling – teaching people how to repair and grow things
- Introduction of the Totnes pound to boost economic resilience (Lewes, Brixton and Stroud have also launched their own currencies)
- Engagement with local government
- Oral History work
- Solar heating challenge
- Setting up of energy companies – TRESOC Totnes Renewable Energy Society
- Energy Descent Plan – planning for the future with a different set of assumptions

- Food mapping of Totnes and district – towards the creation of a more localised economy.

GH informed the meeting that Philip Gibbon had researched a project to use the tidal current with turbines between the Anchor stone and the shore (copies of a paper was circulated to those present). This was small scale and would need more research which Mr Gibbons was doing.

IS gave details of a project to involve young people in allotments. IL suggested that a scheme to pick fruit from unused fruit trees in the district and bring the produce to market should be investigated.

JW asked RH if carbon emissions would be cut if energy (oil) runs out. This would happen if coal was not an option. JD queried the use of Nuclear Power – this would not run vehicles and had waste issues. It could also lead to peak uranium.

PS enquired what the energy return on wind turbines was. GH informed the meeting that figures for this were on the websites for turbine production companies and was approximately 7 or 8 to 1.

PP asked how Transition Town Totnes was funded. RH replied that there were some small funding streams but it was mainly through the work of volunteers.

SP reported that members of the DHNA Board had visited Plymouth University to view schemes for energy harvesting in the shipping lanes and some of these could be born in mind for use in the River Dart.

EL asked if the mill pool at Stoke Gabriel had been considered for energy production. RH replied that this had been considered and all small projects were key to raising awareness.

IS reported that Totnes Council had considered using energy from a mill wheel for energy for their Tourist Information Centre.

JH commented that wind turbines were often popular until they were next door. JB reported that the Manx parliament had overcome this problem by offering free electricity to neighbouring properties where sites were considered.

RH commented that it was important to get communities to take ownership of schemes. In April 2010 central government would be introducing feed in tariffs for photo-voltaics.

JC informed the meeting that any grants for photo-voltaics would have to be paid back if applying to supply the national grid. The National Grid would need massive investment if electric vehicles were introduced.

RH finished his presentation by informing the meeting that if further information was required he could be contacted at 43 Fore Street, Totnes or by accessing the website www.transitionculture.org

JB thanked RH for his very informative presentation.

4. Possibility of re-constituted RAMROG joining DNB.

JW reported that RAMROG (an accredited stakeholder with Dart Harbour) wished to join with the DNB. They represented approximately 60 owners of the foreshore and landowners including the National Trust. RAMROG had a great deal of expertise in foreshore demarcation and data on the Duchy ownership. They had now reached a point where they could not afford to challenge the Harbour Board decision on the issue of transferability of moorings.

JW told the meeting that as of 7th October 2009 RAMROG had written to the Harbour Board to relinquish their accredited stakeholder status.

They still wished to be represented and this was why they hoped to join with the DNB. JW had taken over as Chairman from Mr Roger Jobson and he confirmed that RAMROG held 2 meetings a year, elected their representatives and had a constitution.

Proposed: Councillor Ian Longrigg

Seconded: Mr John Dingle

Resolved: That RAMROG join the DNB group on a one year's trial.

5. Welcome Mrs Tracy Rowe (Deputy Clerk DTC) as DNB Secretary.

JB welcomed Mrs Tracy Rowe to the meeting informed members that Mr Philip Gibbons was standing down as Secretary. He thanked Mr Gibbons for all his hard work and enthusiasm he had given to the DNB group over the years.

IL added his thanks to Mr Gibbons on behalf of South Hams District Council.

SP also added the thanks of the Dart Harbour Board.

6. Report by Treasurer.

The Treasurer had given his apologies and would report to the next meeting.

7. Noss Marina (AOB).

JD informed the meeting that the D & K Society wanted the Noss Marina development in general but were concerned about over-development of the site, particularly the height of the buildings and the number of berths. He questioned whether there were adequate facilities on the river to deal with the proposed number of berths (360), but added that the employment this development would bring was very important.

SP reported that the Harbour Board would be meeting with the developers on 12th October and had already agreed a reduction in the number of berths to 310. However they would be negotiating the area of the berths rather than the number. She added that the Harbour could make recommendations on support services but legally could not comment on the buildings. Their comments would cover their control of the navigable channels and concerns had been raised that the current layout of the pontoons meant that boats leaving their moorings would have to cross the tidal currents.

JW reported that this area of the river was currently used by 2 sailing clubs and space was limited. SP would pass this on to the Harbour Board.

PP informed the meeting that the buildings were only 4 storeys high and this was an outline application; Kingswear Parish Council would discuss the planning application again on 13th October and had a “shopping list of wants” from the developers.

PS commented that the CUG objected to the pontoon at the North East end and the loss of navigable width and depth. He was personally concerned about the loss of the wooded hillside.

SP asked that any concerns should be emailed to the Harbour board so that they could be used for evidence.

NM also asked that any comments be passed to the AONB unit and they would be taken on board. He added that there was a 13 week timescale on the AONB response.

8. Date and Venue of next meeting.

Thursday 25th February 2010 at the Royal Dart Yacht Club in Kingswear at 7.30 pm.

JW to arrange.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm