



TAW TORRIDGE ESTUARY FORUM

Minutes of the quarterly meeting held 7.00pm Mon. 15th April 2024
at Beechfield Centre, Fremington.

Present:

Tony Pratt	ND Yacht Club & Chair
Jeff Needham	Tawstock P C
Matt Edworthy	Gaia Trust
Jim Bell	Fremington P C
David Dixon	Barnstaple Gig Club
Paul Brown	Bideford Harbour
Graham Bell	Braunton P C
Colin Frajbis	Westleigh P C
Tony Bown	Observer
Ricky Knight	NDC
Mark Haworth-Booth	Westcountry Rivers Trust
Chris Hassall	CPRE
Greg Smith	ND Archaeological Society
Tom Humphreys	Skern Lodge
Tristan Otten	Torridge District Council
Jenny Carey- Wood	ND Coast National Landscape
Sandra Knight	Coastwise ND
Andy Cox	Bideford Amateur Rowing Club
Tara Jenkins	NDC
Elizabeth Dee	NDC
Carli Cocciardi	Devon Wildlife Trust
Debbie Frazer	Devon Wildlife Trust
Wendy Lo-Vel	TDC & Northam T C
John Puddy	Steamship Freshspring Trust
Mike Teare	Way of the Wharves
Ian Crawford	Secretary

1. Welcome & Introductions: The chair welcomed everyone. Members old and new introduced themselves

Apologies for Absence: Chris Northrop, Chris Dee, Peter Hames, Sue Prosper, Chris Salisbury, Mark Cann, Andy Bell and Tim Jones

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting, January 15th: Agreed for adoption.

3. Guest Speaker, Mike Teare, Bideford & River Torridge Heritage Harbour.

Mike opened his presentation by announcing that the main activity of BARTH is communicating about heritage including presentations to groups. Heritage Harbours currently includes 3 Inland Ports and 9 Coastal Ports and is a joint initiative between Maritime Heritage Trust, National Historic Ships and Historic England . Way of the Wharves, a local charity chaired by Mike has led the campaign to establish the Heritage Harbour. Heritage Harbour status is national recognition of the importance of the local maritime heritage It has no legal status and there is no attached pot of money. The area covered by BARTH is the historically navigable waterway from Appledore at the estuary mouth through Bideford upstream to the Rolle Canal Sea Lock and terminating in Rosemoor RHS Garden, Torrington.

Some 13 partner organisations make up the River Torridge Heritage Group and rely on volunteers. Planned maps and brochures will highlight some 20 points of interest. An asset register is planned with links in with Heritage England and will include floating heritage. Current task is to pull all information into one place - so if grant application is successful then a researcher to co-ordinate this will be needed. Several questions were asked including whether Instow is included although in North Devon and regarding the inclusion of Richmond Dock, both being ongoing issues for BARTH. Mike was thanked for an interesting presentation.

4. Refreshment Break

5. Matters arising from Minutes 15/1/24

a) Accounts: TP reported that the accounts cannot be reconciled due to an unaccountable £26.60. Bank transfer to a single signature is still in process.

b) Any other Matters Arising: Whitecross developments - SP, Love Braunton, had reported a new case officer is dealing the planning application. GB, Braunton PC reported that the application would come back to the planning committee later in the year

6. Reports

a) TTEF / P & C Committee. Report had been circulated. TP wished to record thanks to CD for renovation of the website. The revamped planning application which is seen as more conducive to the surrounding built environment, is under consideration.

JP suggested that the Forum could improve its ability to receive grants and raise funds by considering a revision of constituted status. IC agreed that the constitution needed revision and the matter is referred to the P&CC for consideration.

b) Estuary Reports

Bideford Harbour Master. PB reported that no ships had berthed in the last quarter. Four enquiries are on going regarding shipping and PB sits on the Board at Teignmouth. The Waverley is coming in on May 31st. The re-instatement of the fountains on the quayside need funding and their maintenance will need volunteers. New safety regulations will apply to Appledore quay and other wharves and PB offered his advice to organisations regarding these regulations. TP represents the Forum on the Bideford Harbour Board. Appledore Shipyard are proposing to install two buoys in Crow Pool to moor shipyard boats. After some discussion about access to other craft being satisfied, a proposal that the Forum support the installation of two buoys was agreed by majority.

Appledore Instow Ferry. CN in his absence had reported that both boats were launched and training onboard completed with a start to the service at Easter followed by some service cancellations due to storms and high tides which prevent safe disembarkment of passengers.

c) ND Biosphere. No report

d) N D Coast National Landscape. JC-W reported that AONB had been rebranded. The management changes will ensure the progress of the future programme.

e) Natural England No report

f) Devon Wildlife Trust. DF had circulated a report and introduced Carli Cocciardi who announced the organisations review of the plan for the area, taking on board the Climate Crisis. A full consultation will be announced. Meanwhile DWT are working with DCC on marine areas due to the impact of rising sea levels.

g) Website. TP reported that the revised website would include 1) organisational nomenclature email addresses for Forum officers. 2) A bird disturbance reporting form. 3) Home page designed to include recent news, events and info from Forum members. 4) A new page for member organisation Quarterly Reports

h) Other Reports.

MT reported that a breach of the levy on the Torridge near Landcross and the old railway bridge, had occurred.

7. Matters brought forward by the Chair. None

RK reported that the SWW public meeting held by the District Council had been constructive.

TP reported that the Middle Dock had been cleared, buildings recorded, and materials saved. Detailed plans are awaited including a new quay wall.

8. Agenda Items for Next Meeting. None

9 AOB.

- **TH Skern Lodge is delighted to share leading 6.5k young paddlers from visiting schools onto the River Torridge in 2023; craft include kayak, raft, and stand-up paddle board.**
- AC announced Bideford Regatta takes place Saturday 29th June
- Bideford Water Festival takes place Sunday 16th June

10. Future Meetings.

Mon. 15th July, 21st October and January 20th 2025