



# Minutes

<b>Name of Meeting</b>	Environment & Sustainability Forum	
<b>Date and Time</b>	16.05.23 at 18:00	
<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams	
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Name</b>
	Holly Jones	Natasha Dix
	Abi Reynolds	Mariann Sullivan
	Sarah Tb	Paul Fuller
	Browen Van Strien	Jennine Gardnier
	Helena Newston	R (guest
	Claire Critchison	Julie Hutchinson
	Dina Jung	Fiona Fitzherbert-Brockholes
	John Hobart	Maggie Nelmes
<b>Apologies</b>	Dave Newton	Jenny Hicks
	Debbie Andrea	Andrew Garrett
	Gary Peace	Michael Murwill
	Penny Action	

<b>1. <u>Welcome and housekeeping</u></b>	
1.1 ND - welcomed everyone. This is our first afternoon session to allow different audiences to come at different time. Previous minutes agreed.	
<b>2. <u>Coastal Protection &amp; Sea Defences</u></b>	
2.1 Natasha Dix provider displayed and provided presentation on Coastal Protection & Sea Defences.	
<b>Q.</b> Sarah - In Fishbourne, there is a large hole. Also, further along towards ferry terminal it is beginning to break up. If it is fixed it is wearing away.	
<b>A.</b> Natasha- I have had conversation with inspectors this week, they are getting quotes to get this filled. We have received inspection report for that specific area. We will investigate this, look at ownership and policy issues and see if we are able to build into capital programme for next year.	
<b>Q.</b> Marianne –We have a situation where people are wanting to build close to end of coast. We have had copious landslips. Is there threshold of value, do we qualify for funding for our do-nothing areas?	

<p><b>A.</b> ND as part of the review of shoreline management plan 3 years looked at, they will re-run calculations. It is not all about funding but also habitats that live in the coastal zones.</p>	
<p><b>Q.</b> Marianne - there is lack of knowledge and understanding of what is and isn't legal on our beach. It will be useful if IWC to make this clearer. Also, danger awareness around blue slipper.</p>	
<p><b>A.</b> Natasha- has been in discussion with Andrew Woodford from lifeboat and they have also spoken to residents. Re MMO licensing, it is part of a plan forward for our communications to help working with residents to make it clearer on what you can and can't do to protect your property.</p>	
<p><b>Q.</b> Sarah – in Wootton and Woodside Bay some of the properties have put in their own sea defences without permission. What could be done to get word out?</p>	
<p><b>A.</b> Natasha – I shall put a guide together for Town &amp; Parish Council on MMO, Natural England and when to contact Council with details.</p>	
<p><b>Q.</b> Marianne - planning enforcement how do we report?</p>	
<p><b>A.</b> Natasha – Will include this in the guide for Town &amp; Parish Council. Cllr Fuller – would be useful to do some more PR on planning enforcement and provide information.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Pre-submitted questions</u></b></p>	
<p><b>Q.</b> It concerns me with the rising of tides and sea level now and into the future ( a metre plus by the end of the century) how we will manage to prevent salt water ingress of our rivers, and flooding onto our farmland, which will cause a very high salinity levels in the water and in the land and make water abstraction for irrigation challenging .... If not impossible! Is there a way that we can defend against this? What thoughts have been given to this problem.</p>	
<p><b>A.</b> The impact of SLR on rivers will vary depending on the particular river (defences, topography, geology, extent of floodplain and estuary, hydraulic connectivity to groundwater). I would expect the greatest impacts to occur on the tidal reaches which are probably already brackish in nature. Their balance will likely change however, with estuarine features moving further upstream if unconstrained. Changes over the next 100 years will in most cases be slow, enabling (hopefully) a gradual transition in habitat and wildlife communities.</p> <p>As the coastal margin is squeezed between urban features (towns, defences, roads) and rising sea levels, the amount of space for intertidal habitat and flood storage is reduced. This might mean that lower reaches of rivers will become increasingly more important havens for coastal species and put greater pressure on upstream freshwater areas too.</p> <p>There is little that can be done once water becomes saline, it can be difficult to flush from soils riparian to the water course, and saline water can infiltrate into groundwater reserves. I cant think that there is much we can do to prevent this from occurring.</p> <p>To better understand the risk of sea level rise the EA update coastal and fluvial modelling. Effective spatial planning is an essential tool for making land use choices that help to achieve greater flood and coastal resilience, as well as wider environmental benefits. IWC planners, farmers and developers have a key role to play in avoiding inappropriate development, farming or abstraction in close proximity to water courses. I do not know the details but the EA work very closely with the National Farmers union.</p>	

From our flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy road map there's focus on working with farmers to adapt to future changes: [FCERM Strategy Roadmap to 2026 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

#### **4. AOB**

4.1 Natasha advised this is Holly's last meeting with the IWC. Would like to take this opportunity to thank Holly for all her hard work over the years.

4.2 Maggie – at cliff Meadows in Ventnor, they cut the grass and don't remove the clippings, this is damaging the flowers. Natasha advised the current contract is cut and fly away. When the contract is up for renewal, we can take this into consideration. I will also take this away and speak to service manager.

4.3 Marianne – Thanked Holly

4.4 Sarah – Thanked Holly. Also asked if we can look at Biosphere Designation. Natasha advised going forward we will ask the Chairs to attend and provide an update at each meeting.