

MAYLAND PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council to
discuss the Sea Wall repairs only.
TUESDAY 24th September 2013 at 7.36pm

Councillor Evans Chairman
 Councillor Duncan
 Councillor Spires
 Mrs Rackham Clerk

Councillor Oatham
 Councillor Gibson

22 members of the public.

41. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Massenhove, Pettitt, Robinson & Hawkes.

42. Code of Conduct Declaring an Interest.

None

43. Public Discussion Session.

The Chairman thanked the residents for coming to the meeting. She advised them that their questions would be taken one at a time, they would need to give their name and only the sea wall repairs would be discussed. She explained that the Parish Council (PC) had met with the Environment Agency (EA) earlier today and various questions were put to the EA's representative. The unfinished section of the path is having some extra work to stabilise the edge using bitumen. She closed the meeting at 7.39pm and took the first question.

Were the specifications for the repairs discussed or known by the Parish Council?

No

Why was the concrete slabs not put back?

Because of the clay and aggregate construction the slabs would not settle level

Do they work to other specifications.

The Chairman explained that the EA advised the PC that the PC doesn't have any powers to determine what the EA does. The EA has a specification which they are working to.

The EA will contact the PC and meet with them to check the work from HBYC to Nipsells Chase. The Chairman said anyone could attend the meeting.

Why isn't the EA at this meeting?

They were invited but couldn't attend an evening meeting. The notice printed in the Maylands Mayl and posted on notice boards stated that they would be willing to meet with community groups.

Is it correct that the EA are not doing work from North Drive to Sea View Parade side of HBYC because of lack of funds?

Yes, budget restraints and they need permission to work from the HBYC's land.

Who pays the EA?

Central Government.

When will the work be finished?

We will be updated at the end of the week.

Cllr Spires explained that when we originally complained about the slabs on top of the sea wall not being safe the EA said the top was the responsibility of ECC Highways and Highways disagreed. This stalemate continued for over a year. Now the EA have accepted responsibility for the whole of the sea wall from the bottom to the top surface. He read out notes he had made following the meeting with the EA today. He included statistics from the Parish Plan which included 99% of households

felt the sea wall must be maintained and it is vital to Maylandsea – The open Aspect of the sea wall walks.

The Chairman advised the residents that apart from the seeding of the edges the section from North Drive to Marine Parade has been finished. She explained that though she has difficulty walking that section was fine for her to use. She suggested each resident look at this section themselves.

We need details of when the meeting will be held?

It was agreed that each person at the meeting tonight would give their contact details to The Clerk and she would contact each person with the date of the meeting once it is known.

If EA are responsible for the path, they will pay the contractors once they think the path has been finished. If we disagree how long will it take for them to return to carry out repairs? Salt will corrode bitumen.

We do not know the answer to this question. The Chairman explained that the council will write to the EA – we want to let them finish their work first.

If they used slabs 30 years ago and they worked, why does the EA say they would not work now? Is it more dangerous now or is it down to money?

We do not know the answer to this question.

Do we know the name of the person who is going to sign off the work?.

We believe it is the person we met today, we will check before we write.

Is it correct that EA are not responsible for the top?

Cllr Spires explained this earlier in the meeting. EA are responsible for all of the sea wall.

Cllr Oatham asked if we employed an independent Civil Engineer would the EA take notice of him.

Why should the PC pay for a Civil Engineer? Surely we could ask for EA's Civil Engineer to look at the work and give us a copy of his report.

We have also requested a copy of EA's Risk Assessment reports and their Health and Safety reports.

Employing a Civil Engineer was not a popular suggestion.

Why did EA start the work if they couldn't finish it to a good standard?

EA believe it will be finished to a good standard.

A resident stated that tax payers would be paying for the work.

What about the tiles along the seaward face of the wall, will they remain?

Yes.

Cllr Gibson suggested each person at the meeting should write as an individual to the EA regarding their dissatisfaction with the work. It would strengthen the PC's actions.

When will we know what is happening.

The Chairman explained that the next meeting of the PC is on 8th October. This meeting is open to the public and you can come and hear what is happening. You can also contact The Clerk and she will update you. The office hours are 10 am to 1pm Mon to Wed. You can also leave a message with your number and she will return your call.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and giving their views. She reconvened the meeting at 8.45pm

44. Sea Wall.

The council discussed the views given in the open section of this meeting by the residents. It was noted that the idea of engaging a Civil Engineer was not looked upon favourably. The Chairman read her notes from the meeting with EA so each of the Councillors would know what was said.

The Councillors agreed unanimously to send a letter to the EA direct to the person overseeing the work and his line manager. The letter will include most of Cllr Massenhove's suggestions previously viewed at the informal meeting plus Cllr Spires

report on the repairs. It was also agreed that the information from the Parish Plan will be included. The letter with a covering letter will be sent to ECC Highways and John Whittingdale requesting their help in this matter. The letter to EA will be cc'd to each of the District Councillors at MDC responsible for Mayland and Maylandsea. **Clerk** to action.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm