

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HILBRE ISLAND NATURE RESERVE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT WIRRAL SAILING SCHOOL WEST KIRBY
ON FRIDAY 3 MARCH 2000

Present: Councillor D W Christian (Chair)

Councillors A C Hodson
Anna McLaughlin
E D Prout
W Smith

Mr P G Williams (Hilbre Bird Observatory)

Apologies: Councillor Mrs F E F Anderson

1. **MINUTES**

The Borough Solicitor and Secretary submitted the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 1999 which had been confirmed by the Leisure Services Committee.

Resolved - That the minutes be noted.

2. **HILBRE ISLAND LOCAL NATURE RESERVE RANGER REPORT 1999**

The Director of Leisure Services and Tourism submitted the report of the Senior Coastal Ranger which detailed various issues which had arisen, and activities undertaken during 1999.

He drew the attention of the Management Committee to a number of issues, in particular the urgent work required to the coastal protection wall at Shell Beach, and the provision of protective/supportive walls which were needed at the soil margins along the east side of the island between Lady's Cave and Chapel Hill, where soil loss was occurring.

He reported that communication with jet skiers was ongoing with regard to disturbance of wildlife, and the issue of registration and identification of jet skis required further consideration. Estate management issues included works required to the listed buildings on the island, and the proposed use of a small wind turbine and/or solar panels as a source of alternative energy.

The Director submitted also a draft Ecological Management Plan from which an Action Plan could be developed in order to conserve and encourage the further development of desirable plant and animal communities, and discourage the encroachment of undesirable plant and animal communities.

Resolved -

- (1) That the report be noted.**
- (2) That a site visit to Hilbre be arranged for the Management Committee on Wednesday 28 June 2000 in order to inspect the works required to be undertaken.**
- (3) That the Director of Leisure Services and Tourism be requested to undertake a detailed survey and a further report be submitted to the Management Committee prior to its visit to the island on 28 June 2000, with costings set out for those works required, as set out in the report now submitted.**
- (4) That the Ecological Management Plan be submitted to the Leisure Services Committee in due course.**

3. SAND MANAGEMENT AT HOYLAKE AND WEST KIRBY

The Director of Leisure Services and Tourism reported upon an independent evaluation of the problem of wind-blown sand at Hoylake and West Kirby, which was published in January 2000. The report confirmed the prediction of a continuing rise in beach levels at Hoylake and West Kirby and provided a more detailed explanation of why it was occurring, and looked at the problems caused by the rise in sand levels and set out a series of options. The report then suggested 22 possible actions and explained in detail what effect they would have. A limited number of copies of the report had been produced and it was proposed to place copies in local libraries and other venues where it could be examined by the public.

The Director reported also upon an initial consultation exercise undertaken with residents fronting the coast in Hoylake and West Kirby, and he outlined the responses received. Given the complexity of the subject, a further more detailed consultation exercise would be carried out during the summer, and copies of a summary of the consultants report would be widely distributed and sent out to anyone requesting it. The outcome of the consultation exercise would be reported to the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee in September.

Resolved -

- (1) That the contents of the report by the consultants on wind-blown sand at Hoylake and West Kirby be noted.**
- (2) That the consultation timetable as set out in the report now submitted be approved.**