



Minutes of the meeting of the Manhood Peninsula Partnership

Mon 22 June 2026
10.00am – 11.30am
Online via Teams

Present:

Joan Foster, MPP Chair (JF)
Lewis White, Sussex Bay (LW)
Paul Bedford, West Sussex Flood Group Forum, SWISh chairman (PBe)
Wendy Gray, Hunston PC Chair (WG)
Andrea Smith, CDC (AS)
Andy Townsend, Environment Agency (AT)
Annie Maclean, North Mundham PC Chair (AMac)
Carolyn Cobbold, MPP Project Leader (CC)
Richard Austin, Chichester Harbour Conservancy (RA)
Deborah Picken, East Wittering & Bracklesham PC (DP)
Iain Ballantyne, CDC Cllr The Witterings and CHC (IB)
Nicolette Pike, West Wittering PC Chair, CHC chair (NP)
Richard Bland, Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust Chichester (RB)
Dorothy Cox, Chichester Canal Trust (DC)
Tracy Parsons, Sidlesham PC (TE)
Robert Carey, Earnley PC Chair (RC)
Jane Tilley, Sidlesham PC (JT)
Martyn Chuter, Walk, Wheel, Cycle Trust (MC)
Freya Divey, Planning Policy Officer CDC, (FD)
Bill Martin, MWHG (BM)
Tim Firmston, Birdham PC (TF)
Jane Cunningham, MPP Project Officer (JC)

Apologies/absent:

Danielle Dunfield, The Great Sussex Way (DD)
Lydia Harvey, Shoreham Port (LH)
Francis Hobbs, The Great Sussex Way (FH)
Adrian Moss, CDC Council Leader, Ward member Harbour Villages (AM)
Jonathan Brown, CDC Environmental Portfolio Holder (JB)
Eva Turley, Marine Management Organisation (ET)
Tom Day, CDC (TD)

David Sale, WSCC (DS)
Jill Sutcliffe, MWHG (JS)

Chris Watson, West Wittering PC (CW)
Chloe Rose, RSPB (CR)
Charlotte Owen, Sussex Wildlife Trust (CO)
Sam Tate, Chichester City Council (ST)
Mark Chilton, CDC (MC)
Max Ambrose, CEO West Wittering Estate (MA)
Lee Walther, Nat Trust (LW)
Gail Richens, RSPB (GR)
Donna Johnson, CDC councillor representative, WSCC and Selsey Town Council (DJ)
Richard Bates, CDC, Ward member Harbour Villages (RB)
Paul Morris, Donnington PC (PM)
Emily Bye, Environment Agency (EB)
Dom Henly, WSCC (DH)
Duncan Keir, WSCC (DK)
John Parsonage, Environment Agency (JP)
Ellie Read, WSCC (ER)
Jess Meagher, WSCC (JM)
Steve Hill, WSCC Partnerships Lead, Highways (SH)
Ian Martin, Selsey Town Council (IM)

1	Chairman's Welcome and Announcements	JF
	The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. A round table introduction was held for the benefit of newcomers	
2	To approve the minutes from the last meeting and action points	JF
	The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and approved as an accurate record of the meeting. Action Point summary: Sustrans has changed its name. The new name should be in the ToR (23/03/2026 completed).	
3	Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda	All
	None JF wrote to AM re changing and concerns re housing numbers. Reply awaited	
4	Sussex Bay update - including Sussex Bay Champions, Plinth, Blueprint workshops and engagement.	LW
	Lewis White, Sussex Bay DR Lewis White – Seascape Research Lead Needs to understand Three focus areas: • Blue Natural Capital Lab • Communities	

	• The Blue print for Seascape Recovery is intended to be a Local Nature Recovery (LNR) strategy for the sea. LNRs do not include the sea, which was considered to be a necessary inclusion with respect to Sussex. Recovery has been identified as being comprised of three elements: • Blueprint for Seascape Recovery Part 1 • Sussex Bay Champions • Plinth Blueprint for Seascape Recovery Part 1 • Introduces key concepts • Shares evidence Part two is an action plan to ensure nature and the blue coastal economy can thrive. Collaboration is key. Ambitions for part 2 requires actionable objectives and who will do them. Strengthening partnerships is key for funding and delivery. Workshops have been held • 17 outcomes • 15 themes • 130 actions • Seascape level recovery is the overarching theme. Funding being pursued. Will need to be creative. Workshops: Consider how we build projects. How do we construct them to enable delivery? Publication of the consultation will take place in the autumn. Two other areas: Sussex Bay Champions • Thus includes Tide & Place, an open call to artists. Plinth: • Free resource to advertise events in Sussex • Aimed at community groups who don't have the funding to do the work themselves. Any questions? JF – activities – do people need a website or can you work form a Face Book page? LW outlined the various ways of doing this.	
--	--	--

	CC – can you please send the link to JC for circulation. CC – MPP undertakes research in the work you do. How does the peninsula fit in? LW – it is a vital component. Sussex Bay is an umbrella of actions. We have an overarching ambition, but local actions are the delivery mechanisms. Use Sussex Bay as a resource. CC – we do a great deal of work locally. Often find we slip between two stools. We don't quite fit. Would be really helpful to be part of a wider group. Action: LW to liaise with JC to review the Sussex Bay action list and identify where it fits with MPP priorities JF – Cleaner Seas objective. How does it work? LW – 15 actions relating to water quality, which are really divers. Meeting water companies. They are part of the solution. What else can we do to enhance our environment in addition to water quality. CC – license for a seaweed farm off Bracklesham Bay. Does LW know of others? Seaweed farms can monitor the water quality IB – it is a Portsmouth application not CDC. We have been asked to comment. Marine Management Organisation will decide the application. LW – MMO have been involved with production of the strategy. Aquaculture features heavily as positive diversification. In 2019 MMO recommended mass expansion of aquaculture. It didn't happen but is being investigated. Seaweed farms locally along the Sussex Bay area are being considered. LW provided the following links to Sussex Bay: Blueprint information: https://www.sussexbay.org.uk/blueprint Community engagement tool: https://book.plinth.org.uk/calendar/dMolYhiXleFqpcjZfh8p Get involved information: https://www.sussexbay.org.uk/get-involved	
5	Integration of flooding issues into emergency / resilience plans	PBe
	Paul Bedford, SWISh Chair PBe – the SWISh remit has now extended to include the complete water cycle and the impacts of climate change. Last winter was a good example of why flooding remains an issue, while now we have impending drought. We have too much water at certain times of year and too little at others. A balance is needed.	

	Need to re-emphasise these issues to CDC. How to promote resilience actions? • MWHG Flow study shows all ditches and locations. Has not been used much. • Want to re launch the scheme of local management in ditches. • There are three types of ditches - transport, feeder and storage ditches. Action Point: PBe to send information on the three ditch types to JC for circulation. Funding – priorities to be established. Transporter ditches drain areas and most importance. Transferring this idea into resilience plans is needed. Individual property level resilience. Can't build new houses that don't look at flood resilience. East Wittering development was refused due to coastal inundation. SWISH to examine existing resilience packages and reframe for a wider audience. Information to be gained from Jane Reeves FLOW project and Operation Watershed. CC – PBe has identified that how we manage our water is key to how we manage the coastal plain. • Sussex Bay and FD are likely to be interested. • When the Dutch came here for going Dutch stated – how you prioritise your water dictates how you prioritise development. • The Manhood Peninsula could become a prototype of water management for Sussex Bay • Could FD include How to prioritise water in the Local Plan? • The company Barfoots has a good scheme for crop irrigation and water retention. Very hard for farmers to get reservoirs established., even small ones that are of huge benefit locally. Need this concept embedded in the planning system and how we do things. TP – yes, we need reservoirs + solar panels. The Ditch survey was useful – but locally ditches have been filled in and regulators did not tackle the matter. Advice on how to address would be appreciated. Please contact Tracy Parsons directly. TF – are rife under the same management as ditches? Can we clarify responsibility? PBe – different to rivers. PBe to bring SWISH discussions back to the MPP.	
--	--	--

6	MPP Contributions	AS/ JC
	Andrea Smith, Environmental Strategy Manager, CDC Jane Cunningham, MPP Project Officer, CDC • Contributions and spend • Conferences – CPN 2026, Coastal Futures 2027 • Source to Sea event 2027 JC introduced the items. Contributions and spend: £4,722 of contributions have been made by parishes to fund work by MPPPO. Of which £265 has gone to Aragorn Hosting for 12 months hosting and domain name renewal for MPP website for 2026-27 Of which £1,742 has gone to the FSC for a saltmarsh plant species course on 30th June 2026 This leaves £2,715 unallocated for this financial year. We have a proposal for use of this remainder. Proposal 1: Coastal Futures Conference Jan 2027 We would like to propose that: £95 is spent attending two-day annual Coastal Futures conference. this online event has been hugely beneficial in terms of connecting the Manhood partnership with other like-minded bodies. 200 organisations are expected to attend the conference whose theme is “From ambition to action”. Attendee response: yes AS - post meeting funding clarification: <i>JC presented a second proposal a “Source to the Sea” conference in June 2027. This would lead to funds being spent out of the remaining £2,620. However, as the event will take place in the next financial year, this expenditure would be marked as a pre-payment and the spending will ultimately come out of the 2027-28 financial year. This would in effect still leave £2,620 to be spent this financial year.</i> Proposal 2: Source to sea event June 2027 We would like to propose that £2,500 is spent on hosting a ‘Source to Sea’ event at Chichester Yacht Club. The morning will be comprised of talks in the yacht club, and solar boat trips with a practical element will take place in the afternoon. Chichester Harbour Conservancy is kindly considering sponsoring the event by contributing the services of the Solar Boat. This is hugely appreciated, and many thanks must go to Richard Austin from the Conservancy. Attendee response: yes CC – loves source to sea. Is a documentary possible?	

	JF – please send thoughts into JC	
7	MPP minutes on MPP website	JF
	JF outlined reasons for discussing the matter. AS – there are positive aspects to having minutes on MPP website such as additional engagement and awareness of the ongoing work. Discussion took place with respect to how PCs disseminate information from the MPP minutes, and whether the minutes should be on the MPP website. MPP is not a publicly appointed body. It is a centre for information. It was felt that there is nothing harmful in putting minutes on website, though someone will have to deal with the responses. The following was considered: Do the next minutes go on MPP website once approved? - Attendee response: Yes. Start with MPP approved minutes for Feb MPP meeting. Do we do the same for GLaM and SWISh? - Attendee response: No, GLaM and SWISh report to MPP. Do we involve Democratic Services if needed? - Attendee response: Yes JF thanked all for their contributions.	
8	Local Government Reorganisation (Standing Item)	JC
	Jane Cunningham West Sussex local authorities had been expecting a decision from the Government on local government reorganisation by the end of March 2026. On 25 March, the Government issued an update confirming that no decision has yet been made on which unitary solution should be taken forward in Sussex. Instead, they announced that they are running a second consultation on proposals covering the whole of Sussex. The new consultation closed on Monday 15 June. Responses to both consultations will be reviewed by Ministers ahead of a final decision, which is expected in the summer. The overall timescale for reorganisation remains the same, with elections to the new shadow unitary authorities expected in May 2027 preparing for the new authorities to formally launch in April 2028. The following link is to the most recent information on CDC's website: Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation - Chichester District Council	

9	Manhood Greenway (Standing Item)	JF
	Joan Foster The Greenway group is delighted to report that agreement has been reached with the three landowners of the Northern Section of the Greenway from Hunston to Chichester Free School. Following a meeting with the Church Commissioners, owners of the middle field, it was accepted that the only possible route was across their field. We are now waiting a planning application from Wates Development for the field next to Chichester Free School, this will show links to the Greenway. The end of the route will be to the north of Chichester Free School. This application will be submitted by year end 2026. Once all agreements are in place, officers will recommend that the bridleway be approved.	
10	Updates from MPP partners and subgroups	All
	• Written updates circulated. • MWHG Newsletter: 11 May 2026 If there are any further updates, please send to JC by email.	
11	Any Other Business and future topics	All
	BM – Church Commissioners have refused the application to improve chalde Station. FD – a new Local Plan is being developed. New consultation to come in future. JF reiterated need for no more housing on the peninsula. FD confirmed she will be involved in future MPP meetings. JF thanked all for attending.	
12	Dates for future meetings	JF
	MPP meeting dates for 2026: Mon 28 Sept Mon 7 Dec All meetings take place online between 10.00–11.30 unless specified otherwise	

Action Point Summary:

- Lewis White and JC to review the Sussex Bay action list and identify where it fits with MPP priorities.
- PBe to send information on the three ditch types to JC for circulation.