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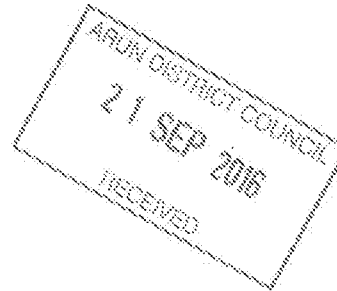
PAGHAM PARISH COUNCIL
The Village Hall, Pagham Road, Pagham, Bognor Regis PO21 4NJ

CLERK
Nicola Jones

CHAIRMAN
Cllr R Radmall

All correspondence to be addressed to the Clerk

Simon Davis
Planning Department
Arun District Council
First Floor
Arun Civic Centre
Maltravers Road
Littlehampton
BN17 5LF



19th September 2016

Dear Simon

Re: Application for a managed breach of the spit at Pagham Beach

Since 2007 Pagham Parish Council ("PPC") has become heavily committed to seeking a sustainable solution to the destructive erosion of our protecture beach crest.

We have already allocated in excess of £250k to employing consultants and providing "community partnership funding to support ADC and the EA in their construction of a revetment and inner harbour flood banks. Much of that money has come from our own Councillors contributions and small donations from residents.

We share the concerns expressed by many in the community that it may not be possible to implement the proposed "community scheme" before the onset of winter storms.

We are given to understand that ADC will wish to secure, by way of a s106 agreement, a bond from PPC in respect of covering the costs of future maintenance of the channel once works are complete. The Parish Council does not have sufficient reserves to meet the request for a bond. The "flood defence reserve" previously amassed has already been spent or allocated in meeting costs associated with the project. Even if there were sufficient funds available, the Parish Council does not have a specific power to undertake work to maintain the channel and would therefore have to rely on s137 Local Government Act 1972 to meet expenditure. The amount that can be spent by the Parish Council on all projects for which there is no specific power is limited (currently to approximately £37k in any one year) and it is unlikely that all of this amount would be available in any year.

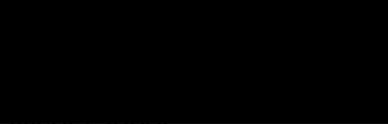
The Parish Council this year agreed to budget for an amount of £10,000 to put towards the flood defence fund (which is usually also supplemented by contributions from Parish Councillors rebating their member allowances) in order to build a "cushion" against requests for contributions towards future maintenance work, but it was not envisaged that the Council itself would be held solely responsible for such work. That was the case for this year, but it would not be possible to guarantee future Councils would wish to budget for amassing the same amount every year – priorities across the

Parish change over time and we must be mindful of the total tax burden we are putting on our residents.

It is unclear why ADC think that PPC are the appropriate body to offer a bond in these circumstances.

The proposed harbour-mouth channel "works" are only the first (essential) step in regaining shingle to replace the huge losses of recent years. We know that a large (inland) area of this Parish will be under threat of loss (EA/SCOPAC seminars) if we fail to continue our partnership endeavours with ADC to build a substantial beach frontage which will be able to resist the predicted tidal rise and storm scenarios which have been promulgated at seminars and conferences since 2008.

Yours faithfully



Nicola Jones
Clerk & RFO
Pagham Parish Council