

# Naze Protection Society

## Annual General Meeting Friday 20th August 2010

**Present :** David Gager ( Chairman )  
Terry Lawrence ( Treasurer & Acting Secretary )  
Gladys Firminger Joan Bunting  
Claire Cadman - Essex Wildlife Trust & Naze Heritage Project  
plus five members of the public

**Apologies :** David Eagle, Michelle Nye-Brown,  
John Willis-Taplin David Joshua

**Welcome :** David Gager welcomed all present and the meeting opened  
at 7.40 pm.

### Minutes of Annual General Meeting : 24<sup>th</sup> August 2009

These had been circulated and were available on the web and were agreed to be a true record.

### Chairman's Report :

This was read to the meeting by David Gager.

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT AUGUST 2010

### Progress:

Success at last, after 30 years of effort and struggle by NPS Crag Walk will be in place in the early part of 2011 thus saving the Tower from the sea and extending the existing sea defence on the Naze. Everyone in the Society should be proud of his or her part in this significant achievement. The 'Saving the Naze' was not a trivial matter with permissions and agreements needed from numerous public bodies some of which for many years were strongly against any hard defence structure in front of the SSSI cliffs.

I believe the degree of difficulty in achieving Crag Walk needs to be understood and is illustrated from the history of the NPS. It was formed on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1981, nearly 30 years ago, to influence the authorities to 'get something done to save the Naze'. By the way Mike Todd, now known as 'Nazeman', was a committee member at the time. Our MP, Sir Julian Ridsdale was the President who in October 1986 wrote to the PM of the day, Margaret Thatcher, asking for the Naze protection to be included in the coastal defence budget. She replied that not only would it not be included but also because of its SSSI status neither could TDC do anything without the agreement of the Nature Conservation Council, today Natural England. This obviously depressed the NPS, gave no opportunity for TDC to do anything and little happened until the large cliff slippage in 1996. Then a public meeting was held to try and find a way forward. This resulted in the formation of the current NPS as a charitable trust and our

charity shop was set up and run by Joy Otter, our past President who died some years ago and will not see the fruits of her labours. Terry Norman was the first Chairman in October 1996 and I took over in November 1997. I was sceptical over taking over as Chairman as the possibility of success seemed remote. However, for the last 14 years we have battled on and have at last succeeded against all odds.

Our success in achieving Crag Walk must be attributed to four key elements ;

The recent partnership with Essex Wildlife Trust and in its strong leader, John Hall,

The efforts of TDC both as partners and their business arm, Intend, in securing the £550K from DEFRA.

The Tower being recognised as an icon that helped secure £500K from ECC,

Lastly NPS for its perseverance and brilliant fundraising success, which were the major factors in convincing authorities of the importance of the Naze and forming a project partnership with key parties.

Within NPS in the last year we have: -

- Played a major role in the partnership steering group comprising TDC, EWT, ECC, and FWTC that is managing the Crag Walk project.
- Continued to make a good income at our shop.
- Successfully gained rent-free agreement with TESCO for our shop.
- Kept in the press whenever possible to promote our cause.
- Met all targets made at the last Trustees meeting.
- Supported the Walton Forum 'Naze Trail' project that has been awarded £33K to proceed. The Naze Heritage Project will be discussing with the Walton Forum how the trail will link into their ideas on the Naze and its development into the Naze Heritage project of which Crag Walk is the start

I will not say anymore regarding Crag Walk as this will be covered by Claire Cadman of EWT who will shortly give us the background as to how we got to where we are and what will be happening in the next 9 months seeing the completion of Crag Walk.

Thanks

The NPS committee is small and hard working, concentrating on achievement rather than discussing what ought to be done as committees so often do. Thanks go to our Treasurer, Terry Lawrence, not only has he controlled the finances brilliantly but again has been our Secretary for the past year in the absence of any volunteer for the post. Gladys Firminger who, assisted by my wife, has managed the shop that is the focus of the Society, which this year made £15K profit. We have many collection tins around the town and our thanks go to Joan Bunting for managing collection tins that is a time consuming task. Thanks go to David Eagle and Michelle Nye-brown, the Tower owner, who are important members of the NPS committee representing their strong interests in the Naze. With myself they are also on the Naze Heritage Steering committee where they have made a positive contribution to bringing Crag Walk to life. Finally, and most importantly our thanks go to the unsung heros of our success, the shop helpers who have individually spent more of their time for the Society than anyone else. It cannot be too strongly stated that our success is due the monies made

from the shop. It has brought to everyone's attention the importance of the Naze to the public who want it saved, it has embarrassed the authorities into backing up their verbal support with a practical contribution, and provided match funding for grant aid bids.

### The future

The future looks bright with EWT interest in the Naze. After Crag Walk it is hoped the desperate plea of 'Save the Naze' will be replaced by 'Praise the Naze' that Chris Gibson of Natural England once suggested should be our goal. The Naze Heritage project managed by the existing partnership of EWT, TDC, FWTC and us could achieve this and enable the Naze to develop into a wonderful public amenity realising its full potential.

### Treasurer's Report – Year End 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Income for the year amounted to £23,582 down £6817 on 2009. This can mainly be attributed to a decline in our investment income of £5276. Shop Sales held up reasonably well at £15,094 down £2647 on the previous year. This was not unexpected considering the opening of two additional charity shops in our small town. Overall our surplus for the year was £9511.28 however a sum of £11500 was paid for professional fees in connection with Crag Walk so our true operating surplus remained in excess of £21000.

Overall expenditure was contained well with some notable decreases from previous years.

The balance sheet now shows that we hold £226,597 – to date our contribution to the implementation of Crag Walk has amounted to £ 21487. When added together it can be seen that the Society has raised in excess of £248,000 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Our objective from day one was that the monies raised be utilised for the protection of the Naze and I am very pleased that at long last a scheme has been accepted by all interested parties and that work should commence within six months.

In twelve months time I hope I am in a position to report that the vast majority of our funds have been utilised in the building of Crag Walk and that we are looking forward to continuing our support for the Naze Heritage Project.

### Election of Officers & Committee :

David Gager explained that all Officers and Committee members were willing to stand for re-election and it was proposed by Sally Crane and seconded by Joan Speight and passed unanimously that the Officers and Committee be elected en-bloc as follows:

Chairman : David Gager

Treasurer &

Acting Secretary : Terry Lawrence

Committee : David Joshua, Gladys Firminger, David Eagle,  
John Willis-Taplin, Joan Bunting, Michelle Nye-Browne.

### Presentation on Crag Walk by Claire Cadman

Claire Cadman of Essex Wildlife Trust then gave a very interesting presentation on the work of the Trust and in particular how Crag Walk and the Naze fitted into the overall plans for the future. Claire was very enthusiastic over the future of the Naze

and said that it would not have happened had it not been for the efforts and fund raising of The Naze Protection Society who are to be congratulated on their achievement.

This was followed by a general discussion period when several questions were raised as to how the scheme was likely to affect the Naze. Claire explained that it was proposed that there would be a Management Plan for the Naze that could include a small visitor centre.

**Any Other Business :**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

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