

Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday 24th February 2021

Agenda Item 6 a) Main Beach - to consider concerns raised regarding stones on the beach

Please find below extracts from the Minutes of previous Council and Committee Meetings regarding this matter:

Beach Management Committee Meeting held on 7th October 2015

8) Beach Concession

A disappointing season was reported due to the poor weather. However, the Moonfleet cutter sailing trips around the bay, and the Russian ‘pirate ship’ used in the bay for the filming of a Peter Pan drama, had been great attractions to local residents and visitors alike.

Comments were made regarding beach raking and whether this could be undertaken more frequently during the months of July and August, from the Mowlem to the Clock Tower jetty. It was felt that this was important as it not only looked good, it showed visitors that Swanage was proud of and cared about its beach. The Chairman confirmed that the removal of seaweed from the beach looked likely to exceed budget this season and the Town Council may look at alternative ways of undertaking the raking in the future. Thanks were given to all for their hard work this season.

Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 11th June 2019

11) Beach Concession

Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the beach between the Mowlem and Banjo Pier.

Council Meeting held on 24th June 2019:

54. (c) **Condition of Main Beach** between Mowlem and Banjo Jetty– this matter would be included on the agenda of the next Tourism Committee Meeting.

Tourism Committee Meeting held on 16th July 2019:

5) Condition of Beach between Mowlem and Victoria Avenue Jetty – consideration of options

Further to Minute No. 54 (c) of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 24th June 2019, consideration was given to the condition of Main Beach between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue Jetty. Concerns had been raised about the stones/debris scattered along this section of beach, and that it could potentially put visitors off visiting the beach. A question was raised as to whether the beach could be ‘sifted’ to remove the debris. During the ensuing discussion the VSM advised that he had spoken to beach users regarding this matter and that the majority of users had confirmed that the stones would not stop them from visiting, and some felt that seaweed would be more of an issue than stones when visiting a beach. Members were in agreement that it would not be appropriate to undertake any work on the beach at this time of the year, and that it would be more prudent to undertake a review at the end of the season and to consider the matter again at the next Meeting of the Advisory Committee in October 2019.

It was noted that beach levels were being monitored by the Channel Coast Observatory, and that the Environment Agency was aware of the Town Council’s concerns.

Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 23rd October 2019

6) Beach Concessions – a slow start was reported, and comments made about the impact the suspension of the Sandbanks Ferry had had. Further comments were made that the condition of the beach had improved. A question was raised about the poor condition of some of the steps down to the beach, and it was confirmed by the Chairman that new steps would be constructed in due course.



Photograph dated 26th August 2020