

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL,  
SWANAGE** on **WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2015** at **2.15 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Councillor Bonfield – Chairman  
Councillor Mrs Green  
Councillor Mrs Marsh

Mr A Allison (Swanage Angling Club)  
Ms R Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports  
Mr J Deare - North Beach Representative  
Mr G King – Swanage Angling Club  
Mr P Loudon – Seaweed Removal  
Mr R Brockman – North Beach Representative  
Mr B Wallbridge – Durlston Country Park – from 2.45 p.m.

Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk  
Miss N Clark – Management Support Officer

**Other Attendees:** Mr G Richardson – RNLI Community Sea Safety Officer

### **Public Participation Time**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

**1) Election of Chairman 2015/16**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs Green and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That Councillor Bonfield be elected  
Chairman of the Beach Management  
Advisory Committee for 2015/16.

**2) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr K Bragg (Private Beach Huts Representative), Mr I Brown (MCA), Mr M Goater (Purbeck District Council), Mr T Greasty (Designated Bathing Zone Representative), Mrs G Jennings (Swanage Sea Rowing Club), Mr R Johnson (Swanage Pier), Mr R Marsh (Quay Representative), Mr R Martin (Swanage Sailing Club), Mr A Mears (Wessex Water Representative), Mr A Power (Swanage & Purbeck Hospitality Association), Mr J Taylor (Pierhead Watersports Byelaw Enforcement), Mr D Turnbull (Swanage Lifeboat), Mr J Wardlaw (Environment Agency) and Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concession Operators' Representative).

**3) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Councillor Mrs Green and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Beach Management Sub-Committee held  
on 25th February 2015 be approved as a  
correct record and signed.

**4) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015.**

**5) Beach recharge** – An overview was given of an email received from Purbeck District Council (PDC). PDC had applied for £75,000 of government grant funding via the Environment Agency to do some feasibility work on the impact of deposited sand on the candidate marine conservation area. Natural England had previously objected to the dumping of sand nearshore due to the potential for smothering reefs and habitats. They would be attempting to negotiate a solution with Dorset Wildlife Trust and Natural England consistent with designation of Swanage Bay as a candidate marine conservation area. Baseline data for modelling purposes would be necessary to evidence the impact of offshore depositing of dredged material. If the bid to the Environment Agency was unsuccessful they would need to investigate other funding sources, including District and Town Council resources. A further update would follow at a future meeting.

**5) Presentation from Mr Gary Richardson, RNLI Community Safety Officer**

A presentation was given by Mr Gary Richardson, RNLI Community Safety Officer, which explained the role of the RNLI and the sea safety work undertaken by them. Details were given of a new Community Safety Action Plan which would form part of a national campaign. Initially the campaign was looking to reach/educate circa five million people, with the overriding message to ‘respect the water’. Data had been gathered regarding incidents on/in the water, and drownings, and the campaign mission was to proactively use the data gathered to reduce drowning figures in the UK and ROI by 50% by 2024. There had been 383 reported drownings in 2013 and 350 in 2014. This data could also be used in the future to possibly change the areas of RNLI operation and training provided.

Mr B Wallbridge joined the meeting at 2.45 p.m.

A discussion ensued and Committee Members commented that the presentation had been very informative, and powerful, and it was agreed that a copy of the presentation would be sent out to all Committee Members to increase awareness of the campaign. It was felt that this was a very important initiative and the more partners who were involved the better. The Chairman thanked Mr Richardson and asked whether he would be prepared to attend future meetings to discuss any issues and to give assistance to Committee Members, to which he agreed.

It was noted that there would be a sea safety session held at the Swanage Sea Rowing Clubhouse, and instruction and advice on sea safety would be provided as part of the forthcoming RNLI week. Mr Richardson would also be happy to provide advice to organisers of local water/sea-based events.

**6) Beach recharge – update**

Further to item 4) above, there was nothing to report.

**7) Updates from Representatives/Organisations  
Swanage Angling Club**

It was reported that a member of the club had won a gold medal fishing for the England Ladies team at the 2015 SALC Home Nations Shore Angling Championships in Ireland at the beginning of July. Thanks were given to the

Swanage Tourist Information Centre team for assistance given to a visiting angling club recently.

The meeting was suspended at 3.00 p.m. due to a fire alarm.

The meeting resumed at 3.10 p.m.

### **North Beach Representative**

It was reported that a representative from each block of beach huts would now be meeting on a regular basis to cascade important information to each other, owners from each block were keen to be kept up to date, e.g. District Engineer, Wessex Water updates. A query was raised regarding new seagull signage, the Chairman confirmed that these were currently being installed and posters would also be displayed by local businesses. A further query was raised regarding the repainting of groyne numbers, as North Beach Representatives would be happy to undertake this work if authorised to do so. PDC would be contacted accordingly.

### **Ocean Bay Watersports**

Concerns were again raised regarding the removal of the litter bin at Ocean Bay, and the continuing problems with rubbish being left at the top of the beach, on the pavement, and near to the bins on the private beach. It was reported that another business at Ocean Bay had been experiencing similar problems. A letter was provided at the meeting detailing their concerns which would be forwarded to DWP accordingly. Questions were raised as to whether bins could be installed near Battlegate toilets, which could encourage use before beach users returned to their cars, and whether signage could be put in place to advise where alternative bins were situated if they were full. It was further reported that as a result of the closure of the Boat Park slipway large boats had been attempting to launch from Ocean Bay now that temporary trailer storage facilities were available at North Beach Car Park. A query was raised as to whether the boat park attendant could provide contact details of moorings providers to boat users, and to promote use of the water taxi service. Thanks were given to the Carnival Committee for providing road closure details for this year's carnival.

### **Seaweed Removal**

It was reported that the recent influx of seaweed had now been removed. Thanks and praise were given to the beach wardens who had been astute in their assistance of removal operations. Beach raking would commence Friday.

### **Durlston Country Park**

Mr Ben Wallbridge reported that he had been promoted to Manager of the Avon Heath Country Park in Ringwood, and consequently this would be his last Committee meeting. He commented on how much he had enjoyed his time at the Park, and having been part of the local community.

### **Maritime Coastguard Agency**

It was reported that the Coastguard team had completed the beach warden training last week, which included Coastguard and Police awareness and defibrillator training. The team would be undertaking a local 'media push' to increase awareness of dog safety. There had been an increase in incidents of dogs not on leads falling over the cliff edge, and recently two people had also fallen over the cliff edge trying to rescue their dogs. In the event of an emergency it was vital that '999' was dialled to call for urgent assistance, under no circumstances should anyone attempt to rescue dogs/people independently. It was also reported that the local team was looking to work in partnership with Swanage Rotary Club, and hopefully others, to provide three further defibrillators for the town.

Possible locations for these were the railway station, Herston and a mobile unit which could be used by community groups at local events. Circa £7k had been raised so far. A further update would follow at a future meeting.

**8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

- a) **Wessex Water - update** – a brief overview was given of an email received from Wessex Water which advised that they were planning to make the proposed improvements to the Ulwell stream outfall before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016. The Wessex Water Representative had also confirmed that he would be happy to attend the next meeting of the Committee to give a further update.
- b) **Beach Management Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference** – a copy of the amended Terms of Reference had been circulated with the agenda paperwork for information purposes. The Town Council had authorised the procedural change to an Advisory Committee, and had adopted the amended Terms of Reference, at the Monthly Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- c) **Beach Lockers – update** – a copy of a RNLi news release had been circulated with the agenda paperwork for information purposes. It was also reported that, further to minute no. 9 c) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015, lifejacket lockers, and the establishment of new landing areas for rowed tenders, would be considered further at a future Tourism Committee meeting.
- d) **Update on Algal Toxins in Scallops** – a copy of the latest update was circulated with the agenda paperwork for information purposes. It was reported that algae and weed were still affecting shellfish in the area and continued to be monitored. A further update would follow at a future meeting.

**9) To agree meeting dates for 2015/16**

Meeting dates for 2015/16 were agreed as follows:

- Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 4.30 p.m.
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 at 4.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.

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