

Notes of an Informal meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held via Zoom video conference platform on Wednesday 30th June 2021 at 2.15 p.m.

In Attendance:

Councillor M Bonfield – Chair
Councillor A Harris
Councillor T Foster
Councillor C Tomes
Mr B Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
Mr R Johnson – Swanage Pier Trust
Mr H Potter – Swanage Pier Trust
Mr D Roper – Swanage Angling Club
Mr K Sheppard – RNLI Lead Lifeguard Supervisor
Mr D Turnbull – Swanage Lifeboat
Mrs E Evans – Management Support Officer
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager
Mrs G Percival – Operations Manager

There were no members of the public present.

The chair welcomed all partners to the meeting.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor C Moreton, Ms N Canning (St Mark's Primary School), Mr T Greasty (Designated bathing zone representative), Mr R Marsh (Marsh Boats, Stone Quay), Mr P Palmer (Pierhead Watersports), Mr G Richardson (RNLI Community Safety Officer and Swanage Sailing Club), Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concessions) and Ms E Wright (National Trust).

2) Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011. There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3) Matters arising from the Minutes of the Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting, held on 24th February 2021

This item would be deferred until the next meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee.

4) Update from Partners

The following updates were provided by Partners and included:

RNLI (Lifeguards) – Lifeguard provision had been organised prior to the peak season. High visitor numbers were anticipated during July and August.

Swanage Lifeboat – A few quieter weeks had been reported enabling training routines to be completed. Any public engagement was performed outside and with only single family groups. Lifeboat week had been cancelled. It was noted that there had been a large increase in the use of paddleboards, kayaks and open swimmers.

Swanage Town Council – The VSM reported on the Seafront Management Plan 2021, which included:

Multiagency working - Tourist Information staff reported incidents of crime, crowded beaches, waste issues etc. to a central database on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, to assist with multiagency working and to highlight areas most in need of additional resources.

Seafront Advisors – it was reported that a Dorset Council grant to assist with Covid recovery had helped to increase the hours for seafront advisors. The role this year included waste bin cleaning and basic maintenance. The Dorset Council-led Town Ambassador role was experiencing difficulties in attracting volunteers to the post but it was hoped that the role would be filled in time.

Waste Management – Additional bins had been procured for the seafront and STC were working closely with Dorset Waste Services to minimise waste issues over the peak season.

Signage – new signage had been installed regarding safety on the beach and the regulations around dogs on beaches following the new Public Spaces Protection Order.

Stone Quay – The chair read an email provided by Mr Marsh which highlighted his concern for abandoned crab lines.

Mr K Sheppard left the meeting at 2.40 p.m.

Suggestions for appropriate crab line disposal included appropriately located bins or dropping off points for re-use. It was noted that the discarding of crab lines would be discussed at a future meeting.

Ocean Bay Watersports – Reported on the successful multi agency initiative to promote safer water usage and in particular the benefit in working closely with Phil Palmer from Pierhead Watersports. It was noted that the S.L.O.W. campaign was proving successful and Bridget Betts continued to offer support and materials. It was reported that filming would take place in the bay highlighting jet ski water safety to then be publicised via social media.

Swanage Angling Club – The club had not met to date, however, angling competitions had continued as usual.

Swanage Pier Trust – Concerns were raised over the use of moorings in the bay in a marine conservation area and the apparent lack of restrictions regarding location, quantity and security of the moorings. It was noted that the Crown Estate held responsibility for this area, however, the committee felt it would be beneficial to better understand the rules and bye-laws surrounding the bay. It was suggested that Bridget Betts be invited to the next meeting to provide some further information.

It was also suggested that all marine based companies should meet, when able, to discuss safe practices. The committee members present were supportive of this approach.

The chair thanked the Operations Manager for her assistance in providing additional steps onto the beach along Shore Road.

5) **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Wednesday 20th October 2021 @ 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.