

Draft Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held via Zoom video conferencing platform on **WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2022** at **2.15 p.m.**

In Attendance: Councillor M Bonfield – Chairman
Councillor C Tomes

Mr B Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
Mr T Greasty - Designated Bathing Zone Representative
Mr S Hill - Swanage Boat Hire
Mr S MacMillan Pratt - Swanage NCI
Mr R Marsh - Stone Quay Representative
Mr P Palmer - Pierhead Watersports
Mr J Roberts - Land and Wave
Mr D Roper - Swanage Angling Club
Mr D Turnbull - RNLI

Councillor T Foster
Councillor A Harris
Councillor M Whitwam
Mr A Mears – Wessex Water
Mr S Norsworthy – FCERM team, Dorset Council
Mr M Penny – FCERM team, Dorset Council
Ms E Steenkamp – FCERM team, Dorset Council
Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Mrs E Evans – Management Support Officer
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager
Mrs G Percival – Operations Manager

Public Participation Time

There was one member of the local press present at the meeting.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr D Bennett (Swanage Rowing Club), Mr I Brown (Coastguard Station Officer), Mr J Deare (North Beach Representative), Mr P Loudoun (Seaweed Removal), Mr S Pinkard (RNLI Lifesaving Operations Business Lead), Mr H Potter (Swanage Pier Trust), Mr G Richardson (RNLI Community Safety Officer), Mr E Taylor (Wessex Water), Mr S Thompson (Cumulus) and Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concessions Representative).

2) **Matters arising from the Notes of the Informal Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 13th October 2021**

There were no matters raised.

3) **Flood and Coastal Erosion Scheme - update**

An update regarding the Swanage Beach Management Plan was provided by Dorset Council's Coastal Risk Team and included:

- BMP was developed in 2020 and from the recommendations the Channel Coastal Observatory undertakes regular surveys of Swanage beach on behalf of DC.

- Annual inspections are undertaken of the groynes and sea wall. Further to the latest inspection in November 2021 the groynes were reported as in ‘Very Good’ condition and the Sea wall in ‘Good’ condition.
- The Swanage beach renourishment scheme outline business case to be developed over the period 2022-2024. Extensive environmental investigations and licensing requirements will be needed.
- Town Centre Coastal protection scheme, currently programmed Autumn 2023 subject to licensing and investigations.
- The slipway review would be included and the potential flood alleviation scheme in Shore Road.

Further to the presentation, clarification was provided around the process of renourishment and the surveys undertaken to ensure accurate modelling which included underwater topography surveys. It was noted that information provided by stakeholders was invaluable to providing a successful scheme.

4) Update from Wessex Water – water quality

Consideration was given to a briefing paper, prepared by the VSM which consisted of a draft document entitled ‘Swanage Central Beach and Water Quality’. It was anticipated that the document would be shared with members of the public and input from Wessex Water was deemed useful in ensuring the information was up to date. A presentation followed, by Mr. Andy Mears from Wessex Water, which included a description of the overflow system and data regarding the location and length of time of storm discharges. It was reported that DEFRA currently had a ‘live’ consultation regarding storm overflows and attendees were encouraged to contribute.

Following the presentation Committee members raised several questions which included:

- **Capacity of sewage plant** – It was queried whether the plant could cope with the additional demand of new builds in the town. In response it was stated that additional demand is factored into future planning of the sewage works and that the plant would be designed to be ahead of demand by 4-5 years.
- **Wessex Water data**– A question was asked regarding access to the water quality data. In response it was stated that Members could be added to the alert system.

5) Update from the Visitor Services Manager

An update was provided by the VSM and included:

- **Swanage Information Centre** – Open all year round and fully staffed.
- **Events** – A request was made for the Events list to be shared with Committee members.
- **Beach Huts** – Almost full capacity.
- **Waste Management** – New seagull proof bins had been installed. A query was raised around the installation of a dog waste bin on/near the slipway as this seemed to be ‘hot-spot’ for dog waste. In response it was reported that dog waste can be deposited in any waste bin and that perhaps some publicity around this would be beneficial.

6) Updates from representatives/organisations

The following updates were provided:

- **Coastwatch NCI** – It was reported that new cameras had recently been installed, including one on top of the Coastwatch building and one on the Pier. It was reported that they provided real time information on the conditions and in the ability to spot

dangers. It was noted that the camera views were able to be used by the public via the Coastwatch website.

- **Pierhead Watersports** – It was reported that the safety monitoring arrangement would be in place again this year.
- **Designated Bathing Zone Representative** – It was reported that the bathing zone would be in position before the end of May.
- **RNLI** – It was reported that the Lifeguard hut had been installed and the lifeguards would commence at the end of May. Lifeboat week would run between 12th – 21st August. It was noted that volunteers were needed and thanks was extended to the lifeboat crew.

7) **Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas**

- a) Swanage Town Centre Flood Defences
- b) The Spa Redevelopment Project proposals
- c) Review of boat park to be undertaken during winter season 2021/22
- d) Access to the town for boat users

The items were noted for a future agenda.

8) **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council meeting held in May 2022.

The meeting closed at 3.50 p.m.
