

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage,  
on **WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020** at **2.00 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Councillor M Bonfield – Chairman  
Councillor C Tomes

Mr I Brown – Coastguard Station Master  
Ms R Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports  
Mr J Deare - North Beach Representative  
Mr A Frampton – Dorset Council & BCP, Flood and Coastal Erosion  
Team.  
Mr R Thomas - Dorset Council & BCP, Flood and Coastal Erosion  
Team.  
Mr G King – Swanage Angling Club  
Mr R Marsh – Quay Operators’ Representative  
Mr S MacMillan Pratt – Swanage NCI  
Mr G Richardson - RNLI Community Safety Officer  
Mr J Taylor – Pierhead Watersports  
Mr D Turnbull - Swanage RNLI Lifeboat Station

Councillor T Foster  
Councillor M Whitwam  
Miss N Clark – Administration & Communications Manager  
Mrs E Evans – Management Support Officer  
Mr W Love – Grounds Maintenance Supervisor  
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager  
Mrs G Percival – Operations Manager

**Other Attendees:** Four pupils from St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, and  
Teaching Assistant, Mrs Nash.

### **Public Participation Time**

There were three members of the public present at the meeting.

The following matters were raised:-

- **Path closure near Ballard Estate** – Concerns were raised over the closure of the path from Ballard Estate to Shep’s Hollow, which had been closed on a 21-day closure notice due to cliff subsidence. The concerns raised included the impact on visitors and residents, potential issues for emergency vehicle access and the financial effect on the convenience store. Support would be given, from the residents of Ballard Estate, for a temporary solution to be established over the summer months and for a co-ordinated effort between Dorset Council and National Trust. In response it was advised that a fellow resident from Ballard Estate had raised these concerns at the monthly council meeting and that a meeting had been arranged between Dorset Council, The National Trust and other relevant parties later in the week to investigate this further. The outcome would be reported to a future meeting. However, it was stated that as this area is privately owned, Swanage Town Council would not have jurisdiction over it.

The Chairman welcomed pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School. The pupils took the opportunity to ask the Committee a variety of questions during Public Participation Time. Questions and comments raised included:

- Concerns regarding the speed of motorboats and jet-skis using the bay, in particular the speed when returning to the shoreline and the proximity to bathers. The chairman advised that the pupils should put their concerns in writing which would then be forwarded to Dorset Council for their attention.
- Comments regarding the Shore Road closure survey were made and included suggestions such as the installation of traffic calming road humps, speed cameras and the prevention of cyclists using this section of road. The chairman confirmed that the section of Shore Road closed to vehicles in the summer months is also closed to cyclists and advised the pupils to fill in a survey form themselves to state their opinions.
- The pupils stated that they had completed a survey in school regarding the road closure and reported that most Year 6 pupils would like to see the road closed all year round, however the pupils in Year 5 felt that the road closure arrangement should remain the same.
- A question was raised as to whether any of the groups present were 'plastic free' as the pupils stated their school had made that commitment. The chairman reported that Swanage Town Council was now 'plastic free' and a few businesses present had also made that pledge. The council were working with other businesses to encourage further action in this area.

The Chairman thanked the pupils for their valued input to the meeting and extended an invitation to the pupils and their parents to attend any of the Town Council's meetings in the future if they so wished.

The Chairman also confirmed that he would visit the schools in due course, along with a member of the administration team, to provide feedback and to discuss all questions raised in more detail, and looked forward to welcoming them again at a future Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Finch, Mr K Bragg (Private Beach Hut Owners' Representative), Mr T Greasty (Safe Bathing Zone Representative), Mr S Hill (Swanage Boat Hire), Ms S Huntington (Environment Agency), Mr R Johnson (Pier), Mr P Loudoun (Seaweed Removal), Mr S Pinkard (RNLI), Mr E Taylor (Wessex Water), Mr S Thompson (Cumulus Outdoors), Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concessions Representative) and Ms E Wright (National Trust).

2) **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

It was proposed by Mr G King, seconded by Mr J Taylor, and AGREED:  
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

3) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

There were no matters raised.

**4) Presentation on the Swanage Beach Management Plan**

A presentation was provided by Mr Alan Frampton, Strategy and Policy Manager, from joint Dorset Council and BCP Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team.

The presentation covered the 2005 Swanage Beach Recharge scheme, coastal monitoring and the 2020 update to the Swanage Beach Management Plan.

The information included a review of the recharge scheme, which had proved successful, and was meeting the projections made in 2005. It was noted that no further recycling or recharge was required at this time. However, to prevent over topping this would be scheduled for 3 to 5 years' time. The groyne replacement had taken place as part of the 2005 plan and it was noted that these remained in a good state of repair; with routine maintenance these would not need replacement for a further 20 to 50 years.

It was reported that the south coast regional coastal monitoring programme had been running since 2002, which was used to capture data including beach profile surveys, wave and tidal measurements and aerial photographs, which were used to develop the beach management plan and any subsequent updates.

The updates to the plan were noted which included the extension to the area covered to include the Banjo pier to the Mowlem theatre. An explanation was provided as to the three phases to the updated plan which included a review of the baseline data, followed by an appraisal of the beach management options. This information would then be used to update the beach management plan and options provided regarding how to proceed.

It was reported that the update would be finalised later in the year and would be available through the Dorset Council website.

The chairman thanked Mr Frampton for the presentation.

A member of the committee noted that the recent landslips had had an impact on the integrity of two groynes, number 14 and 17. Disappointment was expressed regarding the immediate response by Dorset Council to the landslips, specifically in relation to the provision of barriers. It was noted this had been raised with Dorset Council and a response would be reported to a future meeting.

Further questions were raised regarding the need to recharge the beach and the process involved. In response the chairman suggested the presentation be circulated to all members for future reference.

**5) Dorset Council – Public consultation on a Dog related Public Space Protection Order**

A discussion ensued around the implications of the draft proposals set out in the consultation documents. The current rules were discussed and the areas of Swanage beach that these applied to. The chairman stated that the consultation document would be considered at the Planning and Consultation Committee meeting to be held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020 and a response would be submitted on behalf of Swanage Town Council. Committee members were encouraged to submit their own response to the consultation, which could be completed online.

A suggestion was made that the current rules should be made more prominent along the seafront, with clearer signage.

**6) Shore Road – public consultation on the potential pedestrianisation of southern section between the Mowlem and Victoria Avenue - update**

An update regarding the survey was provided which stated that Swanage Town Council had received approximately 750 responses to date. A full report regarding the survey would be provided to a future committee meeting, further to an analysis of the results. It was noted that the closing date was 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, and committee members were encouraged to respond.

## 7) Update from the Visitor Services Manager

### **Swanage Information Centre**

- The Centre had been allocated £2,000 towards a new water tap and to improve the signage of these points. Additional grant funding may be available to increase the number of water points further.
- Funding had been allocated for a locker to be situated by the beach.
- The Centre had won gold at the South West Tourism awards 2019/2020.
- **Seafront Advisers** – four advisers would be recruited for the 2020 season, and the new combined role would include Town Ambassador. This role would include signposting visitors to attractions and services and engaging with businesses in the town.
- **Giant deckchair** – the deckchair would be in position for the summer 2020 season and would be fitted with a black seat this year to maintain a better appearance.
- **Beach Hut bookings** – The beach huts had been fully booked for the summer season.

## 8) Updates from representatives/organisations

**Swanage Coastguard** – it had been a busy start to the year with an increase in landslips and in calls regarding despondent people. The concern over the lack of barriers provided by Dorset Council was reiterated as members of the public had been able to access the area under the landslip. The outcome of correspondence with Dorset Council would be reported to a future meeting. It was noted that the coastguard team had won ‘Resilience of the Year’ award and congratulations were given by the chairman on behalf of Swanage Town Council.

It was reported that the coastguard station would be installing a water bottle refill point to encourage less single use plastic. It was also noted that the Swanage coastguard station and the St Aldhelms Head station would be working in partnership to improve the communication network in the area. The potential funding available through the initiative ‘5G for rural communities’ was discussed and any progress would be reported to a future meeting.

The undercutting of the cliffs at Peveril Point was noted as an area of concern for public safety. It was reported that the signage was to be improved and that Dorset Council’s footpath officer had completed a ‘walk through’ of the area to assess the situation.

**Swanage RNLI** – it was reported that RNLI had undergone restructuring however there had been no significant changes except to note that the water safety team and the education team would merge. It was reported that less than 50% of the public were aware how to raise assistance if in need and a campaign would be launched to advertise ‘Call 999 for Coastguard’. It was noted that the local RNLI team would appear on the BBC show ‘Saving Lives at Sea’ at 8 p.m. on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**RNLI Lifeguards** – The provision of lifeguards on duty throughout the summer period would entail two lifeguards between 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2020 and 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020, which would then increase to three lifeguards between 11<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020. The RNLI week would be held between 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August and further information regarding the events would be provided to a future committee meeting.

In addition to the updates provided the following concern was raised regarding the slippery footway near the Sailing club, Peveril Point area and the footway near the Stone Quay. In response it was stated that as this is the responsibility of Dorset Council this would be reported to the correct department. Dorset Council had advised that new warning signage would be installed.

## 9) To review Advisory Committee membership as out in the Terms of Reference

Consideration was given to the nomination of outside representatives to serve on the Beach Management Advisory Committee, from three commercial outdoor adventure companies, and this was agreed.

It was further agreed that Purbeck District Council and the Marine Conservation Society be removed from the committee.

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

**a) Swanage Town Centre Flood Defences**

An update would be provided at a future meeting.

**b) Swanage Spring Clean – 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

The plan for the Spring clean event was discussed, which included litter picking through the town and a beach clean, both led by Mr Frank Roberts. All residents would be encouraged to clean the area in front of their own homes and the events would be advertised in the local press. Further to the waste management working party meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 a discussion was held surrounding purchasing a bin compactor to compact the waste in the bins and prevent them over filling prior to collection. This would be brought forward to a future General Operations meeting.

**c) Punch and Judy Tender**

The Visitor Services Manager reported that there had been no formal tenders to date but a further report would be made to a future committee meeting.

In addition to the items raised above it was noted that the Carnival committee had provided funds which had enabled three more defibrillators to be installed at Swanage Railway station, Swanage Rowing club and one along Shore Road.

**11) Location of future meetings**

Consideration was given to holding the Beach Management Advisory Committee meetings at various locations including the RNLi building, St Mary's RC Primary School, the Angling Club or Swanage Sailing Club.

All members agreed.

**12) Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting would be confirmed at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2020.

Before closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked Committee Members for attending Committee Meetings, and for their support and input at meetings.

The meeting closed at 3.30 p.m.

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