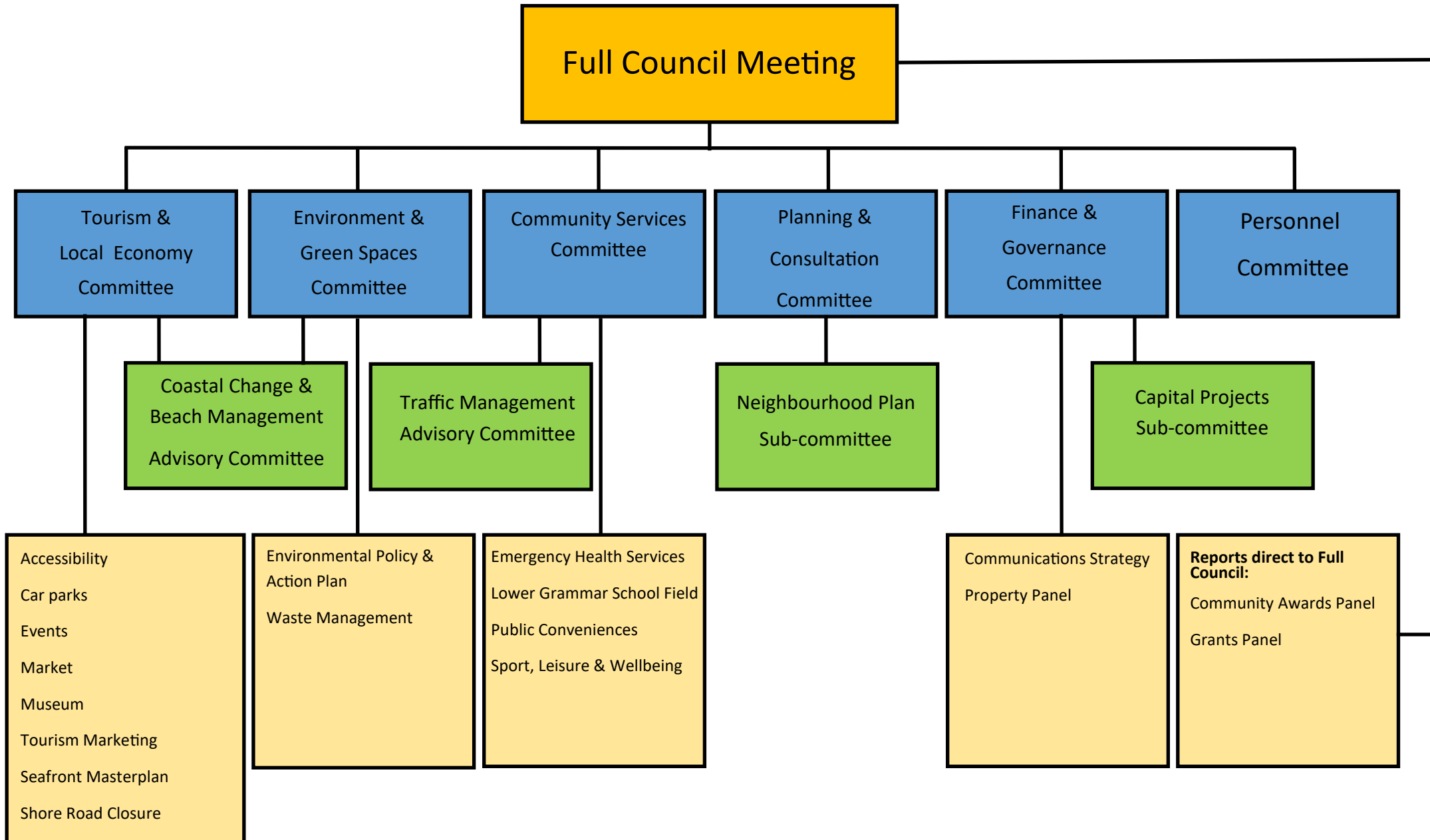


Committee structure from May 2023



## **Swanage Coastal Change Forum (SCCF) Steering Group**

### **Proposed Terms of Reference:**

#### **1. The aims of the SCCF are:**

- To develop the knowledge base of local organisations on the impacts of coastal change in Swanage
- Disseminate information about coastal change to the wider community in Swanage
- Encourage discussion and understanding of coastal change between diverse sectors within Swanage
- Offer a focus for local consultation to statutory agencies and other organisations
- To provide forum for discussion of all coastal issues which affect the whole of the Swanage area (defined as Ballard Point to Durlston Head).
- To be scientifically led, not politically
- To be an independent forum affiliated with the Dorset Coast Forum
- To be hosted by Swanage Town Council

#### **2. Membership of the Steering Group:**

The SCCF steering group is made up of representatives from:

- Purbeck District Council
- Swanage Town Council
- Dorset County Council
- The Environment Agency
- Natural England
- The Jurassic Coast Pathfinder Project
- Dorset Coast Forum
- Natural England
- Swanage Bay Users Group
- The Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site Team
- The Chair of the Steering Group will be appointed from the listed Membership.
- Members of the Steering Group will endeavour to attend all meetings to demonstrate commitment and ensure their expertise is fed into decisions taken by the Steering Group. Use of well briefed substitutes to deputise for the nominated person, if required, will be encouraged.
- Specialists will be invited to provide their knowledge and skills for specific agenda items.

- Organisations will participate in the work of the SCCF Steering Group without prejudice to their own power.

### **3. The role of the Steering Group**

- Act as the advisory group that provides ideas and advice on relevant issues to be addressed at SCCF meetings
- Contribute expertise and information for dissemination to the community through the SCCF
- Contribute to SCCF meetings or events where appropriate
- Promote the SCCF and encourage membership by stakeholders by groups within Swanage
- Raise awareness of the SCCF within the organisation or group they represent and feedback on outcomes
- The Steering Group will encourage the community to take a more proactive role in joint decision making with statutory bodies.
- The Steering Group will disseminate information down to community and up to local authorities, government etc
- The Steering Group will be responsible for determining the membership of the SCCF

September 2011

## **7. Beach Management Advisory Committee Draft Terms of Reference:**

**Main Objective/Remit:** To advise the Council on measures required to provide a safe, clean and well-maintained beach facility, compliant with the European Blue Flag criteria. Also to provide a forum for stakeholders to discuss matters relating more widely to the management of Swanage Bay.

**Reports to:** Tourism & Local Economy Committee and Environment Committee.

**Councillor Membership:** Three councillors to be appointed at the Annual Council Meeting each May, one of which will be elected as Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

**Outside Representatives:** Swanage Lifeboat Crew, MCA, Coastwatch, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, National Trust, Environment Agency, Swanage Pier, Swanage Sailing Club, Swanage Fishermen's Association, Swanage Angling Club, Private Beach Hut Sites Hut Owners' Group, North Beach Representative, Swanage Sea Rowing Club, local divers, Ocean Bay businesses, Seaweed removal contractor, Pierhead Watersports and Byelaw Enforcement, Durlston Country Park, Designated Bathing Zone Operator, Quay Operators, Deckchair/pedalo concessionaire, Wessex Water, and Natural England, RNLI Lifeguard team, Beach Buddies, local outdoor adventure companies, Swanage Moorings Association, Planet Purbeck.

**Quorum:** Three Members/Outside Representatives.

**Frequency of Meetings:** Three times a year, in February, May, and October.

**Member Training requirements:** None.

**Other Matters:** This committee has no delegated decision-making powers. Any issue requiring Town Council expenditure or amendment to Town Council policy will be the subject of a recommendation to either the Tourism and Local Economy Committee or Environment Committee, which may in turn be referred to a meeting of the Town Council. The committee can provide guidance to officers to assist them in taking forward minor matters that do not require referral to a committee.

### **Functions:**

- 1.1 To consider proposals, and make recommendations as appropriate, in respect of the following matters relating to the beach and Swanage Bay:
  - beach and water safety,
  - environmental management and education
  - signage
  - events
  - accessibility
  - moorings and boat launching/landing facilities.
  - management of personal watercraft
  - commercial proposals relating to the Main Beach (Mowlem to Ulwell Stream).
- 1.2 To advise on amendments to the beach rules and regulations.
- 1.3 To advise on amendments to Dorset Council's Public Pleasure Boats Byelaws.
- 1.4 To receive reports regarding sea defence works, flood prevention and beach replenishment schemes from the Environment Agency and Dorset Council.
- 1.5 To receive reports regarding water quality from Wessex Water.

- 1.6 To consider any matter referred to it by the Town Council or another council committee.
- 1.7 To approve the minutes of its meetings for accuracy.

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage,  
on **WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2023** at **2.15 p.m.**

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

Ms B Betts – Environmental Advice Manager, Dorset Council  
Mr B Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports  
Mr E Fox – RNLI Lifeguard Supervisor  
Mr R Lloyd – Land and Wave  
Mr P Loudoun – Seaweed Removal Contractor  
Mr S MacMillan Pratt - Swanage NCI  
Mr A Mears – Wessex Water  
Mr P Palmer - Pierhead Watersports  
Mr G Richardson - RNLI  
Mr D Roper – Swanage and District Angling Club

Councillor T Foster  
Councillor C Moreton  
Councillor M Whitwam  
Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk  
Mrs E Evans – Democratic Services Officer  
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services & Business Development Manager  
Mrs G Percival – Assets and Compliance Manager

There were eight members of the public and two members of the local press present at the meeting. In addition, six pupils and two teachers from St Mary's Catholic Primary school were in attendance.

### **Public Participation Time**

The following matters were raised:-

- **Sea swimming in Swanage Bay**– It was stated that sea swimming had increased dramatically over the past two years. It was reported that the closure of the southern section of Shore Road over the winter period was useful in providing a safer environment and it was hoped the trial closure would become permanent. A query was raised as to whether the showers situated outside the public conveniences in Shore Road could be made available to use all year round and it was noted that the area on the pavement around the showers had become very slippery where the anti-slip paint had deteriorated. In response it was stated that these items would be discussed under Agenda item No.7). An independent swimming coach noted the benefits of sea swimming on mental health, wellbeing and physical health. Members of BMAC were invited to attend a talk by Dr Mark Harper, to be held at the Mowlem Theatre in June, where the benefits would be explored in further detail. A query was raised around the designated bathing zones and whether the area could be extended in size or two separate zones put in place.

- **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, questions from pupils –**
  - Shore Road closure** – It was queried whether the southern section of Shore Road would remain closed on a permanent basis. In response it was stated that the closure was a trial undertaken by Dorset Council and that if the road closure became permanent it may be part of a larger scheme to improve the seafront area. There would be an opportunity for people to contribute through public consultation.
  - RNLI Lifeguards** – A question was raised regarding the length of time the lifeguards were in operation on Swanage Beach. In response it was stated that the lifeguards operated during the busier times of the year. It was noted that the lifeguards had a station on the beach and managed not only danger at sea but also administered first aid and assisted with beach safety.
  - Beach activities** – It was queried why beach sports such as volleyball or bowls were not played on Swanage beach. In response it was stated that Swanage had a relatively small area in which to play and that during the busiest time in the summer there could be more than 3,000 people on the beach.
  - Dogs on the beach** – A question was asked as to why dogs were not allowed on the beach in the summer. In response it was noted that as part of the Blue Flag award scheme dogs were not permitted on the beach to keep the beach cleaner and free from dog mess. It was noted that there were other areas available to walk dogs including Monkey Beach and North Beach.
  - North Beach** – A query was raised around the erosion at North beach and cliff stability and whether anything could be done to prevent further rock falls. In response it was stated that this area is the responsibility of private landowners, although informal advice and guidance was provided by a team of specialists who worked under Dorset Council. It was noted that erosion was a natural process and would continue to occur.
  - Seafront Improvements** – A question was asked regarding the designs for the next phase of seafront improvements. In response it was stated that the public were encouraged to participate in forthcoming consultation events to express what they would like to see. It was noted that councillors would consider the plans and costs before a decision was made.

The chairman thanked all the pupils for their input and praised the children for their confidence in speaking publicly. The pupils were encouraged to draw pictures of what they would like to see on the seafront and beach and a follow up meeting would be arranged for the chairman and Visitor Services and Business Development Manager to visit the school and view their work.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor C Finch, Mr I Brown (Coastguard Station Officer), Mr J Deare (North Beach Representative), Mr T Greasty (Designated Bathing Zone Representative), Mr R Marsh (Stone Quay Representative), Mr M Penny (Dorset Council), Mr H Potter (Swanage Pier Trust), Mr D Turnbull (Swanage Lifeboat), and Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concessions Representative).

2) **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Proposed by Councillor Bonfield and AGREED:-

That the Minutes of the Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

3) **To note the approved Terms of Reference and Representation of Outside Bodies**

The Draft Terms of Reference, circulated prior to the meeting, were noted. It was suggested that sea swimmers be included on the list of outside representatives. In response it was noted that if the local swimmers formed a group or organisation then this could be considered.

4) **Swanage Seafront Masterplan – update**

An update was provided by the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager (VSBDM) which included the following points:

- Over one thousand responses to the survey had been received.
- Various engagement events and activities had been held.
- The engagement stage had been completed and Dorset Coast Forum were putting together a draft strategy.
- The strategy would be subject to further public engagement later in the year.

5) **Blue Flag award**

The VSBDM provided information regarding the Blue Flag award, which included:

- Swanage was one of the first locations to be awarded the Blue Flag in 1987, one of 12 beaches.
- The Blue Flag application was submitted at the end December 2022 and it is hoped that Swanage beach will be awarded the Blue Flag once again in 2023.
- The application requires the following to be submitted:
  - a land and water based risk assessment;
  - evidence of accurate information provided to beach users;
  - emergency protocols (lost children, etc.);
  - excellent water quality as tested weekly by the Environment Agency in the previous year;
  - a standard operating procedure for the beach;
  - various other commitments around litter picking, dogs, facilities etc.
- The application for the award is paid for by Swanage Town Council.

Members and representatives were encouraged to contact the VSBDM for copies of any documents.

6) **Seafront events**

Further to the Events list 2023, circulated prior to the meeting, it was noted that over the past few months some interesting events had been held, which included:

- Candles on the Beach – Lewis Manning.
- Boxing Day Dip – thanks to #Willdoes for organising the event.
- Two running events – one event attracted 700 runners, supported by family and friends and last weekend the event attracted 400 runners.

During 2023 some new events would be held:

- 15th July – A new swim race from Monkey Beach to Burlington Chine and back organised by a local wild swimming company. The swimming company are considering a wild swimming festival for 2024.
- 30th September – Swanage Supervets Rowing Regatta – not a new event, however, held on a new date and will be hosting the ‘CPGA Championship’, a national event.



7) **Sea swimming - increase in year round activity**

The VSBDM reported that there had been an unprecedented increase in numbers of people swimming in the sea over last two years which posed both opportunities and risks.

The increase in year-round sea swimming had created a vibrant seafront in the winter, and the road closure had helped to increase safety and encourage use. It was anticipated that the proposed Seafront Masterplan would include elements to support this activity, particularly as the Dorset Coast Forum survey responses had shown support for year-round swimming.

The VSBDM responded to questions raised which included whether consideration could be given to the installation of a webcam, to enable swimmers to view the sea prior to visiting the beach. In response it was noted that the installation and use of a webcam posed some concern regarding GDPR, furthermore, Swanage Coastwatch and RNLI had webcams installed at their locations which could be accessed by the public.

In response to the query raised during public participation time regarding the slippery area around the showers, it was noted that Dorset Council had initially completed the works and would need to be contacted in the first instance. In response to the request for an extension to the shower operating times it was noted that the pipes were prone to freezing over winter and it was suggested that this item be referred to the Tourism and Local Economy Committee to discuss further.

A query was raised around water pollution warnings, and in response it was stated that the Town Council receives water quality data from the Environment Agency daily between 1<sup>st</sup> May and 30<sup>th</sup> September, via an email at 9.00 a.m. with advisory signs placed outside the Swanage Information Centre by 10.30 a.m. Attention was drawn to the fact that there could be different data available via a widely-used swimmers app and that published by Wessex Water. It was noted that Wessex Water would provide information regarding overflow usage, and should Members wish to receive that information they could contact the representative with their email address. In addition, the Wessex Water representative offered to provide a workshop for a group of sea swimmers to further explain the sewerage system in Swanage, which was welcomed.

8) **RNLI Lifeguards – service provision for the 2023 season**

The VSBDM provided some information regarding the RNLI Lifeguard provision in Swanage which included:

- Lifeguards are part-funded by the Town Council and will cost £29,000 for the period end of May to early September.
- The cost increased by 14% over the last year in line with inflation.
- The Town Council funds approximately 40% of the cost of the service with the remainder paid for by the RNLI.
- The Town Council has been advised that over the next few years the RNLI anticipated an increase to the contribution made by the Town Council, or consideration would be needed to offer a reduced service.

At 3.10 p.m. the Chairman invoked standing order No.1 p. to suspend the meeting so as to allow the members of public present to address the Advisory Committee, and respond to questions regarding/relevant to Agenda item 8).

During this time queries were raised around extending the lifeguard season. In response, it was stated that there would be financial constraints to lengthening the time of lifeguard provision on Swanage beach which currently ran from 27<sup>th</sup> May until 10<sup>th</sup> September. The RNLI Lifeguard representative explained that part of their role was beach safety assessment as well as water safety and added that informative talks

regarding open water swimming safety and workshops regarding beach safety were available.

9) **Planned seafront repairs**

The Assets and Compliance Manager reported on the following planned seafront repairs:

- Environment Agency – temporary flood defence barriers to be removed 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023 for 3 days. The barrier at the top of the parish slipway would remain in place.
- Repairs to Stone Quay, Parish Slipway and Main Beach slipway would be undertaken 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 and anticipated to take 3 weeks.

It was noted that the works would be advertised through social media to ensure members of the public were made aware.

10) **Update from the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager**

The VSBDM provided an update which included:

- **B Scan Unit** – it was reported that a B scan unit, a low-level laser which records information about the beach profile shape and elevation, had been installed near the Mowlem at the end of January. The data collected will be used to provide detailed information about wave overtopping and inform potential flood defence schemes.
- **Beach Huts** – it was noted that the beach huts were nearly full for the summer period. The new beach hut booking system had worked well and had provided an easier method to book online which had led to an increase in bookings.
- **Boat Park** – Officers anticipated a large uptake this year. Major improvements had been made which included:
  - new permanent member of staff to oversee the boat park;
  - water points to be installed at key locations;
  - a dedicated boat park customer telephone number;
  - a range of safety improvements.
- **Staffing** – Currently recruiting staff for the roles of Seafront Advisor and within the Swanage Information Centre along with a Boat Park Attendant.

11) **Updates from representatives/organisations**

- **Swanage NCI** – a query was raised regarding the 5-knot buoy installation and the position of the buoys. In response, it was noted that the buoy installation and period of time they were deployed was a licenced activity under the MMO. It was agreed that a letter should be sent highlighting the importance of the 5-knot buoys.
- **Wessex Water** – an information sheet had been circulated regarding the storm overflow plan for 2025 and the future, following DEFRA's storm overflow reduction plan. Proposals to produce near-real time storm overflow discharge data and information regarding the discharge data from 2022. It was noted that the length of time of a discharge did not influence it being recorded.
- **Swanage and District Angling Club** – The Angling Club awards ceremony had taken place this year with the Town Mayor presenting the awards.
- **Land and Wave** – now employed 24 instructors and 6 undertaking lifeguard training. Land and Wave operating in Swanage, Portland, Poole and Bournemouth.
- **Ocean Bay Watersports** – Jet ski hire was quieter than the previous year.

- **Bay Safety Patrol** – it was reported that updated speed control legislation would soon come into force enabling action to be taken against jet skis as well as boats that exceeded 5 knots within the controlled zone.
- **Pierhead Watersports** – business as usual.
- **Sailing Club** – it was reported that a sea defence wall had been installed and various national events would be held in Swanage.
- **RNLI Lifeguards** – Currently undertaking recruitment for two roles. Lifeguard provision will commence on Swanage beach from 27<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- **RNLI** – it was noted that due to changes in Studland Bay moorings, boats were anchoring in Swanage Bay which displaced an area historically used by water skiers. It was noted that some boat users would anchor inconsiderately. It was suggested that this be referred to the Tourism and Local Economy Committee or to the Swanage and Studland Bay Water safety meetings.
- **Swanage Seafront Masterplan** – further public engagement would take place following the completion of the draft seafront strategy document, anticipated to be publicly available in June/July.

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

The following items were noted for a future agenda.

- a) Swanage Town Centre Flood Defences  
It was noted that the work was ongoing.
- b) Strengthening Enforcement of the Dangerous Use of Recreational and Personal Watercraft - Consultation Update

The information was noted, and it was reported that the work of the Swanage and Studland Bay Water safety group had been recognised at a national level.

**13) Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

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