

Minutes of a Meeting of the **COASTAL CHANGE & BEACH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on **WEDNESDAY**
10th JULY 2024 at **2.15 p.m.**

In Attendance: Councillor M Bonfield – Chairman

Councillor C Tomes – Swanage Town Council
Councillor C Sutton – Swanage Town Council

Mr R Eatwell – North Beach representative
Mr A Espana – FCERM Team, Dorset Council
Mr R Lloyd – Land & Wave
Mrs S Parker – Dorset Coast Forum, Dorset Council
Mr M Penny – FCERM Team, Dorset Council
Mr D Picksley – Environment Agency
Mr H Potter – Swanage Pier Trust
Mr G Richardson – RNLI
Ms A Williams – Wessex Water
Ms E Wright – National Trust
Mr M Turnbull – Swanage Coastal Change Forum

Also Present: Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Mrs E Evans – Democratic Services Officer
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services & Business Development Manager
Ms G Percival – Assets and Compliance Manager

There were two members of the public and one member of the local press present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised on this occasion.

1) **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Tomes, seconded by Councillor Sutton and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That Councillor Bonfield be elected Chairman of
the Coastal Change and Beach Management
Advisory Committee for 2024/25.

2) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Ms B Betts (Dorset Council), Mr I Brown (Swanage Coastguard), Mr S Hill (Swanage Boat Hire), Mr M Jones (Swanage NCI), Mr A Mears (Wessex Water), Ms E Steenkamp (Dorset Council), Mr S Thompson (Cumulus), Mr D Turnbull (Swanage Lifeboat) and Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concessions).

3) **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 7th February 2024**

Proposed by Councillor Sutton, seconded by Councillor Tomes and AGREED:-
That the Minutes of the Beach Management
Advisory Committee Meeting held on 7th February
2024 be approved as a correct record.

4) Dorset Council's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Team

Further to Minute No. 3) of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 7th February 2024, an update was provided by the FCERM team which included the following:

a) Swanage Town Centre Coastal Protection Scheme

The team had considered various options in order to determine a suitable shortlist for the project. The shortlist had provided options that could be compared with each other, and against a "do nothing" scenario. A series of economic and benefits assessments were carried out for the options, based on preliminary drawings and modelling inputs. It was anticipated that the most efficient solution would be highlighted by the economics assessment, although a sizable financial input from external sources was not expected.

b) Beach Renourishment scheme

Further to analysis of options available, the project team had agreed on beach recharge as the preferred option, however, it was noted that the option would be costly and unlikely to attract enough funding. The delivery of the recharge would be dependent on contributions from other sources. In order to maximise efficiency the team were working collaboratively with BCP.

It was noted that Swanage Bay formed part of the Purbeck Marine Conservation Zone and contained black seabream, a protected species. A series of ecological surveys were currently being conducted, in agreement with Natural England, to understand their behaviours and implement mitigation measures on the design.

c) North Beach Cliff Management Strategy

Earlier in the year the team carried out a LiDAR survey, via a drone, of both North Swanage and Durlston Cliffs, which produced quality laser data used to monitor and understand the geomorphology of the area.

It was brought to the attention of the team that in accordance with the Building Act 1984, Section 77, landowners would be liable to others, on grounds of nuisance, in the event that cliff falls caused damage to property and would be applicable to structures or buildings which faced instability along the cliff frontage. Under this section, landowners could be asked to remedy the situation and make it safe.

d) Coastal Transition Accelerator Programme (CTAP) project

It was reported that Jacobs had been appointed as the consultants for the outline business case (OBC) and a project manager had also been selected. It was anticipated that the OBC would be submitted in September 2024.

Public events had been held in collaboration with Dorset Coast Forum to engage with members of the public. Members were encouraged to send any historical photographs of the coastal area to the team.

Thanks were given to Dorset Council representatives for managing the engagement events.

5) Wessex Water online coast and rivers watch map – update

For information see – [Coast and rivers watch | Wessex Water](#)

A representative from Wessex Water provided a demonstration of the coast and rivers watch website, which provided information regarding storm overflow usage and spill

duration. Suggestions were made around the search functions, and it was noted that changes may be developed in the future.

It was reported that Wessex Water had installed several artificial intelligence (AI) monitoring devices to screen the water and provide real time data. Three locations were identified per year, both inland and coastal locations, and these had been confirmed for 2024. Wessex Water were working with Dorset Coast Forum to gain feedback on how areas were used by the public, which helped to inform decisions on the selection of locations for AI monitoring. A question was asked around whether AI could monitor spillage direction and distance from source, and in response it was noted that the option to track the travel of a spill was unavailable at this time.

Members were invited to take part in a tour, led by the Environment Agency, of the flood overflow area at Prospect Farm and were encouraged to contact the Democratic Services Officer if interested.

6) Environment Agency – Swanage temporary flood defenses - update

Further to Minute No. 10) of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 7th February 2024, it was reported that consultants had been instructed to review the positioning of the concrete blocks (used as temporary, seasonal flood defences) and recommended that due to the movement experienced, particularly during storm Ciaran, the blocks at Stone Quay be placed short end to the sea with additional blocks situated behind for increased stability. It was noted that there would also be reduced protection nearer to Monkey Beach.

It was noted that the ‘Flooding Swanage with Art’ project would be re-instated for the 2024/25 winter period as a reminder of the purpose of the blocks and the colourful art would assist those with reduced visibility. It was noted that plans for a permanent flood defence scheme continued and, dependent on approval of plans and funding, construction could commence late 2026.

7) Motion for the Ocean Draft Declaration

Members noted the information contained within a briefing paper prepared by the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager (VSBDM), considered at the recent meeting of the Environment and Green Spaces Committee, which set out the draft declaration for the Motion for the Ocean. The declaration contained a 12 month action plan and members were encouraged to provide input into the draft document. Dorset Coast Forum were thanked for the introduction to the Motion for the Ocean at last years conference and members hoped to be able to work with other groups involved in the motion to realise the actions.

8) Green Seafront

Further to Minute No. 5) of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 7th February 2024, it was reported that the consultation results had highlighted a strong desire for an improvement to pedestrian safety along Shore Road. In that respect the Town Council and Dorset Council had commenced an early contractor engagement exercise in order to optimise schemes. Further public consultation was anticipated later in the year and an update would be provided to a future meeting.

9) Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Members noted the contents of an email from Dorset Coast Forum which provided an update regarding the proposed inclusion of marine areas within the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). It was noted that Defra had strengthened their position against this proposal for reasons which included that the maps and proposed activities in marine areas would fall outside the statutory LNRS boundary and therefore would not be

underpinned by legislation. In addition, the inclusion of statutory and non-statutory components within the same document could cause confusion, impacting the usefulness of the LNRS.

It was noted that Dorset Coast Forum would continue to gather input on coastal areas that fall within the statutory boundary and prepare a summary report of the work relating to Dorset's marine nature recovery to inform future proposal. The report would be shared with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to explore how spatial planning for marine nature recovery might develop in the future.

10) Update from The Visitor Services and Business Development Manager

The VSBDM provided an update which included:

New signs – New signs had been installed at Mowlem/Banjo/Ulwell Stream with QR codes and included contact details for Wessex Water and the Environment Agency.

Blue Flag - Main beach had been awarded the Blue Flag for the 23rd consecutive year.

Seaweed and raking trial – The seaweed and raking trial would be in place for the season.

Shore Place (Hardstanding) - Carve Coffee opened in May and it was anticipated that the sauna would be opened in October 2024.

Swanage Bay River catchment area – A new forum was being established and further information would be reported to a future meeting.

Water quality – It was noted that Wessex Water and the VSBDM worked closely in order to notify the public about any potential water quality issues, in a timely manner. It was suggested that an improvement to communication in order to close a case would be beneficial.

Dorset Coast Forum – It was noted that the Motion for the Ocean declaration may be able to be included during upcoming educational events.

11) Updates from representatives/organisations

Swanage Boat Hire – The chairman read an email received from the representative of Swanage Boat Hire, regarding concerns over the lack of bin provision for boats accessing the bay. In response it was noted that this would be included on the agenda of a future meeting of the Waste Management working party. The increased ground movement and erosion at Peveril Point was also noted.

Swanage Pier Trust – A 5-10 year business plan had been created for the Pier which included a maintenance plan. A review of visitor numbers on the pier had been undertaken and the following numbers recorded since the beginning of April: 8,600 adults, 380 children, 200 divers, 1200 cars, 600-700 fishers. The Pier was working with Swanage Railway on joint fundraising activities.

National Trust – The Studland Masterplan consultation, being conducted in collaboration with Dorset Coast Forum, was currently being undertaken. A proposal for the lengthening of the restriction for dogs to be on a lead from March, as opposed to the current restriction starting annually in May, was currently being discussed to protect nesting birds at Bramble Bush bay.

Land and Wave – It was noted that Cumulus and Land and Wave were working together to investigate the possibility of a lifesaving club, which included governance and funding arrangements, to be revisited in the winter months. It was noted that a presentation would be provided at the CCBMAC meeting to be held in February.

North Beach representative – It was noted that work to replace a section of distressed concrete along the walkway was being undertaken by the beach hut owner.

RNLI - Throw bags (lifesaving aids) had been situated around the bay, most recently at Ocean Bay and the Pier. It was noted one more throw bag was available, and the Beach concession may be approached to undertake training and be provided with the bag. It was noted that windsocks would be installed at Ocean Bay and Banjo Pier. The windsocks would be raised at the same time as the lifeguards were on duty.

12) Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas

a) Seafront Masterplan

It was noted that the newly elected councillors had been updated on the project plans, to date, and further information would be provided to a future meeting.

b) Swanage Bay Bylaw Review

Potential revision of Dorset Council's Swanage Bay Bylaw would be included on a future agenda.

13) Date of next meeting

The date of next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 2nd October 2024 at 2.15 p.m. at the Town Hall.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.
