

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage,
on **WEDNESDAY 11th JUNE 2019** at **2.15 p.m.**

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

Ms R Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
Mr I Jamieson – RNLI Lifeguard Supervisor – from 2.35 p.m.
Mr R Johnson – Swanage Pier
Mr P Loudoun – Seaweed Removal
Mr K Sheppard – RNLI Lead Lifeguard Supervisor – from 2.35 p.m.
Mr J Taylor – Pierhead Watersports
Mr D Turnbull - Swanage RNLI Lifeboat Station
Mr C Wiggins - Beach Concession Operators

Miss N Clark – Administration & Communications Manager
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager
Councillor C Moreton
Mrs B Mayes – Litter-Free Purbeck
Mrs S Spurling – Litter Free Coast & Sea

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

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised:-

- **Litter-Free Purbeck** – a request from the group for support from the Town Council to place a temporary storage facility on land adjacent to Swanage Information Centre, which would greatly assist the volunteers when undertaking beach cleans and activities over the summer season. For further details please visit:
<https://twitter.com/litterfrpurbeck?lang=en>
- **Litter-Free Coast & Sea** – an update was given on the ‘Love our Beach’ campaign, and details of a recent beach clean undertaken with pupils from The Swanage School. For further details please visit: <https://www.litterfreecoastandsea.co.uk/love-our-beach-swanage/>

1) Election of Chairman 2019/20

It was proposed by Councillor Finch, seconded by Mr J Taylor, and AGREED:-
That Councillor Bonfield be elected Chairman of the
Beach Management Advisory Committee for 2019/20.

2) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr I Brown (Maritime Coastguard Agency), Mr J Deare (North Beach Representative), Mr S Hill (Swanage Boat Hire), Mr G King (Swanage Angling Club), Mr R Marsh (Quay Operators’ Representative), Mr S Pinkard (RNLI Lifeguards), Mr G Richardson (RNLI Community Safety Officer), Mr E Taylor (Wessex Water), Mr I Weston (Swanage NCI), and Ms E Wright (National Trust).

3) **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 27th February 2019**

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Mr J Taylor, and AGREED:
That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 27th February 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 27th February 2019**

6) **Update from the Visitor Services Manager Beach Regulations**

It was reported that the draft revised Beach Regulations had been approved at the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13th March 2019.

5) **Litter-Free Purbeck (LFP) – request for permission to site a temporary storage facility on land adjoining Swanage Information Centre**

Further to Minute No. 32 of the Special Meeting of the Council held on 29th May 2019, consideration was given to a briefing note dated June 2019 prepared by the VSM setting out a request from LFP for a hut to be placed in the garden area adjoining the Information Centre in support of its beach cleans and related activities. The matter had been delegated to the Advisory Committee by the full Council.

During the ensuing discussion Committee Members expressed their keenness to support the group, and its invaluable work in combatting litter in Swanage and on the beach. It was therefore proposed by Councillor Finch, seconded by Councillor Tomes, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: -

That approval be given to the construction of a solid base and the erection of a high quality beach hut by Litter-Free Purbeck on the grassed area adjacent to Swanage Information Centre, as set out in the VSM's Briefing Note, and attached map, dated June 2019.

It was then reported that Morebus had teamed-up with Litter-Free Purbeck to raise awareness of LFP's campaign to reduce litter along the coast and in urban and rural areas, and to encourage more people to dispose of their rubbish properly. Morebus had commissioned artwork which would be displayed on its buses to raise awareness of the campaign, and would be carrying litter bins onboard its 40 and 50 bus services. Councillors Bonfield and Finch had attended the campaign launch event on 10th June.

A copy of the new artwork was shown to Committee Members, who were impressed with the design/wording, and a question was raised as to whether permission to use the artwork could be obtained from Morebus, so that the Town Council, local businesses and events could make use of this too e.g. for signs and stickers.

The VSM agreed to look into this on behalf of the Committee, and a request was made for any interested parties to contact the VSM accordingly.

6) **Consideration of a review of signage at the Stone Quay regarding the launching of boats**

Further to Minute No. 8 c) of the Beach Management Meeting held on 27th February 2019, consideration was given to a request for a review of signage to be undertaken at the Stone Quay regarding the launching of boats.

Mr K Sheppard and Mr I Jamieson joined the meeting at 2.35 p.m.

During a brief discussion Committee Members were in agreement that the existing signage was somewhat unclear, and a question was raised as to whether commercial operators should be charged a fee for using the Stone Quay to drop off/pick up its customers.

The VSM agreed to review the signage, and investigate commercial operations being undertaken at the Quay, and bring his findings/recommendations back to a future Committee Meeting for further consideration.

7) **RNLI Lifejacket Lockers – to consider the installation of additional lockers at Main Beach**

Further to Minute No. 190 of the Monthly Council Meeting held on 25th February 2019, it was reported that the twelve RNLI lifejacket lockers had now arrived at the Town Council's Depot and were awaiting installation adjacent to the railings near the Stone Quay.

Consideration was then given to the possibility of installing additional lockers at Main Beach. During the ensuing discussion Committee Members were in agreement that the lockers could be used as a secure storage facility for personal belongings when members of the public/families went swimming, paddle boarding/kayaking, and also by visiting motorcyclists for bike helmets etc, and not just for lifejackets. However, Committee Members concurred that further research needed to be undertaken before a decision could be made.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Bonfield, seconded by Councillor Finch, and RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-

That delegation be given to the VSM and Mr G Richardson, RNLI Community Safety Officer, to research suitable locations for the additional lifejacket lockers, and report their findings to the next Committee Meeting to be held in October 2019 for further consideration.

8) **Beach Safety Boards – update**

It was reported that the three new beach safety boards were nearing completion and would soon be installed. The boards would include a safety message, a redesigned map, location reference, water points, lifejacket lockers, and First Aid points. A question was raised regarding 'lost children' procedures, and it was confirmed that this information would also be added.

9) **Swanage Boat Park – update**

The VSM was pleased to report that the Boat Park was now open and up and running again. It was noted that there would be reduced parking available and it was agreed that the VSM and Councillor Bonfield would meet with representatives from Swanage RNLI Lifeboat to discuss future parking arrangements during lifeboat callouts.

Some issues were reported with green algae, which was extremely slippery. The Swanage RNLI representative agreed to undertake research on a special paint which prevented weed growth, and would report his findings to a future Committee Meeting.

10) **Update from the Visitor Services Manager**

The Visitor Services Manager provided updates on a number of matters, including:

Blue Flag and Seaside Award 2019 – the VSM was delighted to report that, for the 18th successive year, Swanage Central Beach had received the Blue Flag and Seaside Award.

Seafront Advisers (SA) – three of the seasonal SAs were now in situ and had settled in well, a further SA would start in July. The SAs would promote the safe use of the seafront area, and provide advice and guidance on local byelaws and beach regulations to members of the public. The role would also include litter picking, collecting fees from the boat park, and patrolling the beach, working in partnership with the Council’s Enforcement Officers, the RNLI Lifeguards and the Coastguards. The SAs would also ‘promote’ the town to beach users, and a question was raised as to whether they could also be used to ‘meet and greet’ trains arriving at Swanage Railway Station.

Large deckchair – it was reported that the procurement process for the large deckchair was ongoing and, once installed, it was anticipated that this would be a popular attraction, and provide a ‘photo opportunity’ for visitors.

Monkey Beach jetty rings – it was reported that an annual licence had been granted to a local business owner to hire out the seventeen rings between the Stone Quay and the Pier for a small fee to hirers, on a daily, weekly, or annual basis.

11) Updates from representatives/organisations

Swanage Pier

It was reported that the Pier was back up and running, and all was going well. The launch of the new community radio station, Purbeck Coast FM, would be sometime in July 2019. It was noted that the the DJs were ‘practising’ at the present time.

Pierhead Watersports

It was reported that one of the five-knot marker buoys had come ashore, and a question was raised as to whether approval could be obtained from Dorset Council for a local contact to be authorised to put in place, replace, or re-position marker buoys as and when necessary.

Ocean Bay Watersports

It was reported that the business would be running at reduced capacity this season.

Seaweed Removal

The contractor reported that seaweed removal operations were underway, and beach raking had commenced.

Beach Concession

Concerns were raised regarding the condition of the beach between the Mowlem and Banjo Pier.

Swanage RNLI

A busy start to the season was reported. Swanage Lifeboat Week was being held from 9th to 18th August 2018 this year, and would include an angling event, and an outdoor cinema during the week.

RNLI Lifeguards

Mr Ivor Jamieson, Lifeguard Supervisor, introduced himself to the meeting. The Swanage service was now in its fourth year, and had recommenced on Saturday 25th May 2019. A busy start was reported. Two lifeguards would be on duty until 6th July, the team would then increase to three lifeguards, and this years’ service would run until 8th September.

12) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

There were no matters raised.

13) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 2.15 p.m.

Before closing the Meeting, on behalf of the Town Council the Chairman gave thanks and appreciation to Litter-Free Purbeck and its volunteers for their sterling work undertaken in the town and surrounding areas, and everyone was encouraged to view the ‘Sustainable Swanage’ interactive display at the Swanage Information Centre.

The Chairman then gave thanks to Committee Members for their continued support, and time and valued input given to/at Beach Management Advisory Committee Meetings, and best wishes were extended to attendees for a good summer season.

The meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.
