

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage,
on **WEDNESDAY 6th JUNE 2018** at **2.15 p.m.**

In Attendance: Councillor M Bonfield – Chairman
Councillor G Marsh
Councillor M Whitwam

Mr A Ainsworth – RNLI
Mr B Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
Mr N Field – Maritime Coastguard Agency
Mr S Hill – Swanage Boat Hire – Until 2.35 p.m.
Mr R Johnson – Swanage Pier
Mr G King – Swanage Angling Club
Mr S Pinkard - RNLI
Mr J Taylor – Pierhead Watersports

Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Miss N Clark – Acting Administration & Communications Manager
Miss A Isted – Seafront Adviser
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager

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

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised.

1) Election of Chairman 2018/19

It was proposed by Mr R Johnson, seconded by Mr J Taylor and AGREED:
That Councillor Bonfield be elected Chairman of
the Beach Management Advisory Committee for
2018/19.

2) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr K Bragg (Private Beach Hut Owners' Representative), Mr I Brown (Maritime Coastguard Agency), Mr J Deare (North Beach Representative), Mr T Greasty (Craft Free Zone Representative), Mr R Marsh (Quay Representative), Mr R Martin (Swanage Sailing Club), Mr G Richardson (RNLI Community Safety Team), Mr E Stevens (Environment Agency), Mr E Taylor (Wessex Water), Mr B Tolley (Durlston Country Park), Mr D Turnbull (Swanage RNLI Lifeboat Station), Mr I Weston (Swanage Coastwatch), Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concession Operators' Representative), and Mr R Wilson (Purbeck District Council).

3) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 31st January 2018

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 31st
January 2018 be approved as a correct record
and signed.

4) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 22nd February 2017**

6) **Lifeguards and sea safety**

b) **Five knot speed limit enforcement in the bay – update** – it was reported that the five knot buoys had not been satisfactorily positioned in the bay, and that the Craft Free Zone Representative had indicated that he would be willing to reposition the Buoys accordingly. It was therefore agreed that contact would be made with the District Council to discuss this matter further. A copy of the Pleasure Boat Byelaws Map 3 was provided showing the correct location of the five knot area.

It was noted that there had been issues experienced over the spring bank holiday weekend with jet skis coming too close to the beach. The TIC had reported the incidents to Poole Harbour Commissioners, although no Datatag registration numbers had been taken.

c) **RNLI lifejacket lockers - update** – it was reported that the draft Licence Agreement had been reviewed and would be signed off by the Town Council imminently. A request was made for the ‘master key holder’ to be advised when the delivery/ installation date was known.

5) **Lifeguards and sea safety**

a) **RNLI ‘Respect the Water’ Campaign – presentation from Mr Alex Ainsworth, Face-to-Face Manager, RNLI**

The Chairman welcomed and introduced Mr Alex Ainsworth to the meeting. Mr Ainsworth then gave a presentation regarding the role of the RNLI’s Face-to-Face Team, and giving a brief overview of the ‘Respect the Water’ Campaign.

The team was described as being ‘positive ambassadors of the RNLI’, and it was reported team members held up to 200 conversations every day with members of the public, providing them with beach and sea safety awareness advice specific to the location, and also undertaking fundraising activities for the RNLI. A short video was then played to Committee Members. It was noted that further information could be found at: www.F2F@RNLI.org.uk

Committee Members thanked Mr Ainsworth for the informative presentation, which had been appreciated. Thanks and appreciation were also given to the RNLI and the Lifeguard and Sea Safety Teams for the invaluable services they provided to the local community.

Mr S Hill left the meeting at 2.35 p.m.

6) **Are you visiting Swanage by boat? – consideration of a new information page for the Town Council’s website**

Consideration was given to a draft new webpage for the Town Council’s website, titled ‘Are you visiting Swanage by boat?’, which had been prepared by the Visitor Services Team. The new page listed useful information for persons visiting Swanage by boat, and promoted services and facilities on offer in the town, including details of moorings, water taxis, Swanage Boat Park, a map of the bay, and useful websites and telephone numbers.

During the ensuing discussion Members were in agreement that it would be very helpful to have such information all in one place, and a number of suggestions for improvements were made. A question was raised regarding the possibility of installing a welcome/information board at the Boat Park, and rings for securing dinghies. Comments were also made that it may be prudent for the VSM to contact the Swanage Sailing Club for further input.

Committee Members were invited to submit any further suggestions/recommendations for the new webpage to the TIC Team accordingly.

7) Updates from representatives/organisations

RNLI Lifeguards

It was reported that the lifeguard service had recommenced on Main Beach on Saturday 26th May 2018, and would be in situ until 9th September 2018. The recruitment process for the peak season had commenced, lifeguard training courses would be held in due course, and it was hoped that local residents would be interested in signing-up to take positions this year.

Swanage Angling Club

A slow start to the mackerel season was reported, and details were given regarding the three common seal pups which had been released into Poole Harbour by Dorset Wildlife Trust and the RSPCA at the end of October 2017.

Swanage Pier

An update was given on the pile replacement and restoration project being undertaken at the Pier. It was anticipated that the works would be completed during July in readiness for the main summer season. The commemorative plaques would be reinstated on the new planks. It was further reported that additional grant funding was currently being explored, and the Pier's website would be refreshed/updated in due course.

Ocean Bay Watersports

Ocean Bay Watersports would be running reduced services this season. Committee Members wished to extend very best wishes to Charles and Rona.

Swanage Information Centre

Committee Members welcomed Miss Airlie Isted to the meeting. Miss Isted would be undertaking the role of Seafront Adviser for the Town Council this coming season. A second adviser would be starting in July, and both would be in situ until September 2018. The advisers would be patrolling the seafront from the Mowlem to Ocean Bay, providing members of the public with advice and guidance on local byelaws and seafront/beach regulations, working in partnership with the Council's Enforcement Officers, the RNLI Lifeguards and the Coastguards, and would wear bright orange shirts so that they would be instantly recognisable. The advisers would also be receiving training regarding Town Council services, and would act as ambassadors for the Council.

Mr Alex Ainsworth offered to liaise with the VSM to provide advice/share information regarding dealing with possible incidents of anti-social behaviour, and would look to review the RNLI's Swanage Beach Risk Assessment with the VSM.

The VSM then reported on the new TIC team members who were settling in well, and invited Committee Members to call in and meet the team.

Maritime Coastguard Agency

It was reported that a pre-season meeting would be held with the TIC on Monday 11th June, and a training session would also be arranged with the RNLI Lifeguards. The Coastguard Team was again looking forward to working in partnership this season.

The team had had a busy winter, with a number of high profile missing person searches, and providing assistance with flood defences during the adverse weather conditions in March. Difficulties were being experienced in recruiting new volunteers, and a recruitment campaign would be undertaken at the Swanage Fish Festival on the 9th and 10th June 2018. Comments were made that it may be prudent for the team to contact the Swanage Volunteer Bureau who may also be able to assist.

A reminder was given that, during a beach or coastal emergency, members of the public should always dial 999 and request coastguard assistance, prior to making any contact with the Station Officer or Deputy Station Officer.

Swanage RNLI

Swanage Lifeboat Week was being held from 10th to 19th August 2018 this year.

At 3.05 p.m. the Chairman invoked Standing Order No.1 p. to briefly suspend the meeting so as to allow members of the public to address the Committee.

8) **Swanage Surf Life Saving Club**

a) **Presentation from Mr Matt Walling, Teacher of Computer Science, The Swanage School**

Unfortunately Mr Matt Walling had been delayed in arriving at the meeting and a copy of Mr Walling's presentation slides, and details of the 'Surf Lifesaving Pathway', were provided to Committee Members for their information. The slides gave details about Surf Life Saving GB (SLSGB), a search and rescue charity. SLSGB volunteers had been providing beach lifeguard training for more than 61 years, and its clubs were nationwide, training members from the age of five years old in search and rescue, beach education, lifesaving, and fitness skills. SLSGB had a strategic partnership with the RNLI, and worked closely with RNLI Beach Lifeguards providing a joint lifeguard service and beach patrol.

It was reported that Mr Walling proposed to start his own club in Swanage, and was therefore seeking approval from the Town Council to host club nights on Main Beach. Mr Walling had previously held a position as a beach lifeguard with the RNLI in Cornwall, and had been an active member of the Perranporth Surf Lifesaving Club for many years.

b) **Consideration of proposed use of beach for weekly Swanage Surf Life Saving Club Night**

Further to the above discussion, consideration was then given to an email from Mr Walling detailing a request for the use of Main Beach by the Swanage Surf Lifesaving Club. It was explained that the club would meet one evening per week, and members would be trained in lifesaving and surf lifesaving sport, which would include swimming races, prone board paddle races, surf ski races, and beach activities. Once the club was up and running, the club would also open weekends for voluntary patrols of the beach, with close links to the RNLI Lifeguards. It was noted that Mr Seb Pinkard was himself involved with five local SLSGB clubs, and reported that club members regularly progressed to becoming RNLI Lifeguards.

During the ensuing discussion, Committee Members were in support of recommending that approval be given for use of Main Beach by the club. However, it was felt that further information was required before they could make a decision. It was therefore agreed that a meeting would be held between interested parties to discuss specifics/ logistics, the outcome of which would be considered again at a future Committee Meeting.

9) **Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

a) **Environment Agency – Flood Warden Newsletter spring 2018** – a copy of the newsletter was provided to Committee Members for information purposes.

b) **Sand levels and gravel on Main Beach** – a query was raised regarding sand levels and gravel on Main Beach. It was confirmed that the beach had been raked yesterday, and the Operations Team was also in the process of clearing a build-up of sand from the surrounding roads.

10) **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 24th October 2018 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.
