

Minutes of Beach Management Committee
Tuesday 17th October 2.30pm
Town Hall

In attendance: Councillor Mrs Gloria Marsh, Chairman
Councillor Mr Colin Bright
Mr Alan Leeson, Town Clerk
Mrs Alison Holmes, Tourist Information Centre Manager
Mr John Deare, North Beach
Mr Paul Loudon, Seaweed Removal Contractor
Mr Russ Johnson, Swanage Pier
PC Jason Cartridge, Swanage Police
PC Carl Rose, Dorset Police Marine Section
Mr George Willey, Licensed Victuallers Association
Mr Alex Allison, Swanage Angling Club
Mr Nick Field, Swanage Sea Rowing Club
Mr Alan Lander, Swanage Fishermen's Association

1. Apologies

Received from John Taylor Pierhead Watersports and Byelaw Enforcement, Ali Tuckey Durlston Marine Project, Mike Leach Boat Park Attendant, Roger Marsh Swanage Bay Users Association, Martin Venning Wessex Water, Dave Turnbull RNLI, Ian Brown MCA, Stephanie Pyburn Environment Agency, Angelo Wiggins Beach Operator, Lee Abraham Purbeck District Council.

2. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- a) Alex Allison proposed and Alan Lander seconded the minutes to be a correct record.
- b) Further to Item 4, Russ Johnson advised that there will be a buoyed/roped area in place at the southern side lower landing area of the Pier for next season for the use of divers and they will have to display the 'A' flag.
- c) Alan Lander questioned the ownership of the area in front of the coastguard cottages. Alan Leeson advised that the area in front of the Haven was owned by the Haven developments.

3. Acceptance of Terms of Reference

- a) Nick Field suggested that the following alteration be made "To provide a safe environment for all bathers" to be changed to read "To provide a safe environment for all beach users". This was agreed. As this is Council policy it will also have to be changed in the Best Value Performance Plan.
- b) It was also agreed to add Swanage Bay Users Association and the Association that is currently being set up to represent the private beach hut site owners. John

Deare queried that he was only an individual. Alan Leeson clarified that due to the nature of the Committee and references made to representatives from different locations and interests, this enabled individuals with specific interests to attend.

- c) It was proposed by Russ Johnson, seconded by Nick Field that the Terms of Reference be adopted subject to the above amendments being made.

4. Russ Johnson – Pier Matters

- a) Russ Johnson gave a short presentation about the history of the Pier Trust and the Pier Company highlighting its activities and areas of responsibility. A new tidal/weather gauge will soon be in place which will have a large capacity for monitoring various sea and weather conditions. There is still hope that an agreement can be met with the Waverley operators for future sailings and work is continually being done to encourage sailings along the Jurassic Coast. The Pier is now closed at night except for the use of recognised angling clubs. More volunteers are always needed.
- b) Alan Lander advised that there maybe possibilities of funding from a coastal tourism initiative that was recently discussed at the South West Maritime Conference.

5. Condor

The Chairman introduced a letter submitted by Roger Marsh. Alan Leeson advised that Mr Marsh had previously brought this information before the Town Council and it was agreed that a letter of support would be sent accompanying any future correspondence that Mr Marsh sends.

A general discussion took place. John Deare advised that it is never noticeable when the Condor is going out from Poole it tends to be when it is coming back in and the wash can be seen approx 10-12 mins after it has past he also noted that a similar wash can be experienced approx 20- 25 mins after the Brittany Ferry has past. Councillor Bright noted that in his personal view it appeared to be further out and that the wash has appeared less this year at the Ocean Bay end. Alan Lander commented that he had heard of less problems being experienced by the fisherman.

PC Carl Rose explained that the greatest problem is proving the wash. PC Jason Cartridge advised there is a black box system in place on the condor however this information can only be accessed in a criminal investigation. Also any filmed evidence captured would have to be a continuous loop from the condor passing to the wash coming in. Dorset Police Marine Section has not had any problems with the condor this year.

It was advised that the area is outside the jurisdiction of the Poole Harbour Master. The Chairman believed there was a document some years ago stating the vessel must be 2.5 miles from shore and requested a letter be sent to Condor to reiterate this fact.

Russ Johnson commented that the new equipment that was due to be installed on the Pier should be able to measure and monitor the wash and show timings. Alan Leeson advised that the Town Council's CCTV could be used to obtain evidence.

6. Five Knot Buoys/Safe bathing zone

The Chairman explained that following the previous meeting there had been a site meeting between Councillor Marsh, Alan Leeson, Alison Holmes, Lee Abraham Democratic Services Officer and Mike Goater, District Engineer to look at the possibilities of extending the safe bathing zone as far as the Ulwell Stream (the cost and whether this can be done under the current licence) and to replace the 5 knot buoys with uniform ones (there is currently great confusion caused by the different types). PC Jason Cartridge reported that Poole and Bournemouth have sourced a very good style of speed marker buoy. Alan Leeson agreed to communicate this to Mike Goater. Councillor Bright commented on the state of the safe bathing zone this year and that the broken bits had still not been removed. PC Jason Cartridge queried whether there had been problems with anglers getting caught up in the safe bathing zone or any injuries reported due to the hooks getting caught. There was no experience of any such problems having been recorded. General comments were made that by extending the safe bathing zone, various craft would be pushed towards Ocean Bay therefore increasing the numbers of craft in that area.

Alan Leeson referred to comments raised at the site meeting about channel marker buoys at the launch and recovery points around the bay. A discussion followed and it was stated that other areas such as Poole and Weymouth have channel markers in place. Each launch point was discussed separately.

a) Ocean Bay

Councillor Bright commented that problems had been experienced this year with new pink buoys that had appeared. He stated that he would be following this up to seek clarification that they are allowed to be placed there. Russ Johnson confirmed that the Mooring Association area finished opposite the Spa bungalow site.

The Chairman advised that the previous concessionaire/owner at Ocean Bay had had to mark a channel out as part of the licence so it should be looked at if this was still part of the current licence.

b) Parish Slipway

Due to nature of the area of the Parish Slipway (depth of water, rocks, pedestrians) it is only suitable for launching certain craft and was not deemed necessary for channel marker buoys.

c) Boat Park

A general discussion took place about the amount of buoys already in this area and the location of The Berry which also highlighted the need to mark channels to assist boat users. It was agreed to have a site meeting on Tuesday 24th October 2006 3.30pm at the Boat Park.

7. Future Agenda Items

- a) Councillor Bright commented on the condition the beach since the recharge and the amount of splinters, the grade of the sand and the directional flow of the Battlegate outfall. He also asked if it would be possible to place a sign on the beach facing north at the start of the private beach huts advising “No Dogs (1st May-30th Sept)” as people walking along the beach from the north end are not aware as all signage is up at pavement height. Colin left the meeting at this point.
- b) Update of the 5 knot buoys, safe bathing zone, channel marker buoys
- c) Alan Leeson referred to the latter paragraphs in Mr Marsh’s letter.
 - i) Wreckage – The need to clarify who is responsible for removal and also enforcing the removal.
 - ii) The raising level of the sea bed off of the Quay and the lower High Street becoming prone to flooding. It was agreed that this question should be put to the District Engineer.
 - iii) Signage advising people to not feed the seagulls. It was noted that Alison Holmes has already sourced information from other local authorities and a report will be taken to the next meeting of the Town Council’s Tourism and Environmental Committee.
 - iv) Rescue services experiencing difficulties trying to get through the town centre to Peveril Point.
- d) Eldon Estate Slip
Nick Field reported that the Swanage Sea Rowing Club are currently looking for alternative premises as their success continually grows. They have acquired pontoons and have a 3rd boat, a Celtic Longboat, on order.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 6th March 2007 2.30pm Swanage Town Hall

Meeting Closed at 4.40pm