

Minutes of the Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT  
SUB-COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, SWANAGE**  
on **WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014** at **2.15 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Councillor Bonfield – Chairman  
Councillor Mrs Marsh

Mr A Allison – Swanage Angling Club  
Ms R Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports  
Mr J Deare – North Beach Representative  
Mr G King – Swanage Angling Club  
Mr R Marsh – Quay Representative  
Mr R Martin – Swanage Sailing Club  
Mr M Slater – Swanage Boat Hire  
Mr J Taylor – Pierhead Watersports Byelaw Enforcement  
Mr D Turnbull – Swanage Lifeboat Station  
Mr B Wallbridge – Durlston Country Park  
Mr I Weston - Coastwatch  
Mr C Wiggins – Beach Concession Operator

Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk  
Mr G Brookes – Operations Manager  
Mrs C Hooper – Tourist Information Centre Supervisor  
Miss N Clark – Management Support Officer

### **Public Participation Time**

There was one member of the public present at the meeting.

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns were again raised regarding the Ulwell Stream outfall and water quality, and a request was made for the Council to press Wessex Water to implement proposed improvements. The Chairman referred to an email received from Wessex Water confirming that the improvements would be undertaken in the financial year 2015/16. An overview of the 2014 season Environment Agency bathing water quality readings was also provided by the Tourist Information Centre Supervisor, all readings passed the guidelines and an improvement was seen on the 2013 readings. A projected rating of 'excellent' for the 2015 season was reported.
- Enquiry made regarding the possible permanent closure of Shore Road. The Chairman confirmed that the existing Road Closure Order expired on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The Chairman further confirmed that he would take this matter forward to a future Transport Committee meeting to discuss whether this was a matter which could be explored by the Swanage Local Plan Working Group or Dorset County Council Highways.

#### **1) Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Patrick and Brown, Mr M Goater (Purbeck District Council), Ms G Jennings (Swanage Sea Rowing Club), Mr K Bragg (Private Beach Huts

Representative), Mr Tom Greasty (Designated Bathing Zone Representative), Mr P Loudon (Seaweed Removal) and Mr A Mears (Wessex Water Representative).

**2) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.**

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr J Taylor and RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

**3) Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.**

**4 a) Beach recharge** – A brief overview was given of an email received from Purbeck District Council regarding the planned trial to deposit sand in the bay. It was confirmed that Natural England had raised an objection to this proposal as Swanage Bay falls within a Special Area of Conservation and is protected under the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010. Purbeck District Council had organised a dive survey to record current habitats and species and were working with Dorset Wildlife Trust, Natural England, Isle of Purbeck Sub-Aqua Club, Borough of Poole and the Environment Agency to overcome the objection which would allow Swanage bay to benefit from the dredged sand from Poole Harbour in the future.

**4 b) 5 knot speed limit enforcement in the bay** – A brief overview was given of an email received from Purbeck District Council. It was confirmed that they had asked the contractor to check the position of the buoys and correct any errors. It was also confirmed that the District Council would be looking at the budget for the speed limit marker buoys and Enforcement Officer for the 2015 season and would be taking the concerns raised at the Beach Management Sub-Committee meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 into consideration.

It was reported that the buoys had ‘worked’ this year and that boats had been taking notice of them. Concerns were raised however regarding the fact that the buoys had not been placed in the correct position, had not been in a straight line and one had even been washed ashore. The general consensus was that they could be placed better in future using GPS positioning techniques. It was noted that the RNLI representative would be happy to map the positions of the buoys on behalf of the District Council and the query raised as to whether it would be possible for the RNLI and the Enforcement Officer to accompany the contractors when the buoys were placed next season.

**8) Seagull Posters**- It was confirmed that contact had been made with East Devon District Council and they had agreed to supply the Town Council with an amendable copy of their poster for use in Swanage accordingly.

**9) North Beach, Burlington Chine & foreshore** – It was confirmed that the wording had been reviewed and updated on the Town Council website regarding dogs on beach regulations and a paragraph included regarding the private beach areas to ensure that the guidelines were fair and clear. It was reported that no instances of dog fouling had been seen at Ocean Bay during the summer season.

**4) Seafront Stabilisation Scheme – Update**

A brief update on the progress of the seafront stabilisation scheme was given. It was reported that works had progressed well since the last meeting and that the

new toilets had been completed and opened prior to Carnival Week. It was noted that positive comments had been received from visitors to the town. Since that time the focus had been on the building of the new beach huts and kiosk. Ground works were now complete and completion of the scheme was expected by the end of October 2014. It was reported that Shore Road would be re-open by Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

During the update, concerns were raised regarding the jutting islands of the kerb lines at Broad Road and the fact that they could not easily be seen at night. It was confirmed by the Operations Manager that he would look into the possibility of installing reflectors on the kerb line to increase visibility accordingly.

**5) Five knot speed limit enforcement in the bay – Update**

Concerns were raised regarding the budget for this service in future years and the general consensus was that contact with Purbeck District Council needed to be made to agree the contract details and budget prior to the commencement of the season. It was further reported that the beach wardens had also assisted with the monitoring of the bay and had provided regulations and launch leaflets to boat users on a regular basis.

During the discussion further concerns were raised regarding the placement of the buoys and speed limit markers, bathers and jet skis, the lack of response to reported Enforcement issues, the extended season with activities being undertaken for longer periods and whether the buoys should be left in place for longer going forward.

It was noted that the process of budget setting was being undertaken by Purbeck District Council at this time and it was AGREED:

That this matter would be raised with Purbeck District Council as a matter of urgency and the outcome of these discussions would be reported back to the next Committee Meeting in February 2015.

**6) Feedback from 2014 season and plans for next year, and;**

**7) Updates from Representatives/Organisations**

**North Beach Representative**

It was reported that the Battlegate public toilets were still open and an enquiry was made as to when they would be closing. It was noted that they would be closed at the end of October 2014, although discretion was held to open them during school holidays and at other busy times.

**Ocean Bay Watersports**

Concerns were raised regarding the removal of the litter bin on the Council-owned side of the beach at Ocean Bay and it was felt that this was an environmental issue. Photographs of the problems would be provided to the Town Council for forwarding to Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP) for their consideration.

It was reported that this was DWP's first year of supplying services to the town and had been a 'trial' period. A review meeting would be held in due course to discuss future services. Further concerns were raised regarding the closure of Shore Road until 7.00 p.m. on Carnival Day. Ocean Bay businesses had not been made aware of the closure details and this had prevented vehicles from leaving/entering Ocean Bay which had caused problems. A letter regarding this matter would be provided to the Town Council who would forward this with

comments to Dorset County Council. The Tourist Information Centre would also bring this matter up at the next Events Meeting.

### **Pierhead Watersports Byelaw Enforcement**

It was reported that it had been a reasonable summer season. Concerns were raised however regarding heavy drinking, jet skis, and larger speed boats speeding out of the bay. Comments and suggestions were welcomed from Committee Members on how to raise awareness of the dangers. A discussion ensued regarding PR material previously used, including posters and glasses with warnings printed on them, sea safety leaflets (at the entrance to the Pier and at the Tourist Information Centre) and also the RNLI Campaign aimed at the under 40's 'Drinking & Drowning'. An increase in paddle boarders using the bay was reported and it was felt that awareness also needed to be raised regarding the dangers of the winds and tides. It was noted that the RNLI Community Sea Safety Officer (CSSO) had developed a Community Safety Action Plan covering areas/issues which had been of concern, and promoted prevention not rescue. Contact was invited with the CSSO to obtain details of the Action Plan.

### **Swanage Boat Hire**

A satisfactory season was reported, however, a drop in business had been seen in August.

### **Beach Concession Operator**

An excellent start to the season was reported, however, a drop in trade had also been seen in August. It was felt that the Seafront Stabilisation Scheme had affected trade a little, although they were now looking forward to 2015. Thanks were given to the Tourist Information Centre staff, Beach Wardens, the Town Council and Ocean Bay Watersports for their support during the summer season.

### **R.N.L.I.**

It was reported that the RNLI team had been busy with various incidents recently, some of which had been of a serious nature. The start of the building work for the new lifeboat station was on schedule for 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 and the Tourist Information Centre had sent a reminder letter to all boat park users to remove boats by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014. Some trailer storage may be made available at North Beach Car Park and a further update would follow. Temporary mooring facilities would be set up for the lifeboat during the works. The slipway would be remaining open to the public, although temporary closures may be required from time to time and would be advertised via a new webpage which had been developed by the local RNLI team, [www.swanageboatpark.co.uk](http://www.swanageboatpark.co.uk), where you could also sign up for email notifications. The team would endeavour to give two weeks' notice for any planned closures. Posts would also be made on Twitter, [@swanageboatpark](https://twitter.com/swanageboatpark). Signs would be placed in Broad Road and it was reported that the builders had a good reputation in managing developments. It was noted that RNLI week in August had been successful with takings of £47,000 which had produced a profit of c£30,000. Next year's event would be held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

### **Swanage Angling Club**

Thanks were given to the Tourist Information Centre for the use of the beach warden's hut during the Angling Club's Save the Children Fishing Competition. It was reported that there had been an increase in the number of outside angling clubs coming in to the bay this season, which had also been good for the town.

### **Quay Representative**

Good season reported with boat trips, although issues had been experienced with the pontoons with the build-up of seaweed in August as the seabed had become

too shallow. The decision had therefore been made not to use pontoons from next season and the business would work the extra tide from the quay slipway and the pier from 2015. The question was raised as to whether rings could be provided along the slipway, or extra rings at the quay. It was agreed that a meeting between the Chairman, Operations Manager and the quay representative would be arranged at the jetty to assess the matter. Clarification was also given regarding the Sitting Out Licence granted by Dorset County Council (DCC) to the takeaway/café adjacent to the quay, and the fact that motorbikes could no longer park on the quay pavement area as they would be subject to enforcement action by DCC Parking Services.

#### **Coastwatch**

A steady season was reported with less instances of speeding seen. There would be a new dedicated VHF channel next season which could be used by visiting boats to the bay, channel 65. If anyone had any information to pass on to boat users, contact was to be made with Coastwatch and the details would be aired accordingly. It was agreed that this would be a useful service.

#### **Swanage Sailing Club**

An excellent year was reported with club membership blossoming at 650+ members. In view of the good weather seen, however, wind had at times been precious and races had had to be cancelled.

#### **Durlston Country Park**

A steady season was reported, which had been longer than usual because of the good weather, with good visitor numbers seen. It was noted that the team running Durlston Country Park now consisted of four rangers and one trainee.

#### **Tourist Information Centre**

A very good season was reported. Praise was given to this year's team of beach wardens who had also assisted considerably with launching services.

### **8) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas**

**a) Shore Road** – it was reported that Dorset County Council had now confirmed that they would be resurfacing the entire length of Shore Road, full details yet to be advised, however this could potentially be undertaken in January 2015.

**b) Monkey Beach** – a request was made for the consideration of a new jetty at Monkey Beach. It was discussed that in view of potential issues with e.g. the build-up of sand/sediment adjacent to the Stone Quay, there would be the need for a Marine Architect to undertake an assessment/feasibility study before this could be considered. It was agreed that an email would be sent around to all Members to gauge interest in taking this matter forward.

### **9) Provisional Date of Next Meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.

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