

Minutes of the Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT
SUB-COMMITTEE** held at the **TOWN HALL, SWANAGE**
on **WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY 2014** at **3.00 p.m.**

In Attendance: Councillor Bonfield – Chairman
Councillor Mrs Patrick
Councillor Brown

Mr I Weston - Coastwatch
Ms R Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
Mr J Deare – North Beach Representative
Mrs R Taylor – Pierhead Watersports Byelaw Enforcement
Mr A Allison – Swanage Angling Club
Mr D Turnbull – Swanage Lifeboat Station

Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Mrs C Hooper – Tourist Information Centre Supervisor
Miss N Clark – Management Support Officer

Other Attendees: Mr M Tidman – Wessex Water

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

Public Participation Time

The following matters were raised during Public Participation Time:-

- Concerns raised regarding dogs and dog fouling on North Beach and the North Beach foreshore, private beach dog guidelines and the current Dog Byelaws
- Concerns raised regarding the Ulwell Stream outfall, sewage, water quality and the Blue Flag guidelines

1) Election of Chairman 2014/15

It was proposed by Councillor Brown, seconded by Mr A Allison and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Councillor Bonfield be elected
Chairman of the Beach Management Sub-
Committee for 2014/15.

2) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Marsh and Wiggins, Mr M Goater (Purbeck District Council), Mr R Marsh (Quay Representative), Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concession Operators' Representative), Mr G King (Swanage Angling Club), Mr J Wardlaw (Environment Agency), Mr M Slater (Swanage Boat Hire), Mr R Martin (Swanage Sailing Club), Mr B Wallbridge (Durlston Country Park), Mr P Loudon (Seaweed Removal) and Mr K Bragg (Private Beach Huts Representative).

3) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 19th March 2014.

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

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 19th March 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed.

4) Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of the Beach Management Sub-Committee held on 19th March 2014.

a) Beach recharge - An update was given regarding the planned trial to deposit sand in the bay. It was reported that there has been an objection to this proposal from Natural England as Swanage Bay falls within a Special Area of Conservation and Purbeck District Council are continuing to liaise with interested parties to agree a brief to move this matter forward. A further update will be requested from Purbeck District Council before the next Meeting.

b) 5 knot speed limit enforcement in the bay – It was reported that Purbeck District Council had confirmed that the marker buoys were in the incorrect position and a request has been submitted to correct this error. The Town Clerk agreed to arrange a meeting with Purbeck District Council as a matter of urgency to discuss the repositioning of the buoys and to publicise this issue.

5) Seafront Stabilisation Scheme – Update

A brief update on the progress of the seafront stabilisation works was given. Further to the last meeting held on 19th March 2014, in the interest of safety, the decision had been made to dismantle and re-site the War Memorial to facilitate further stabilisation works. This work had now been completed and the scaffolding was due to be taken down. Following the implementation of the additional stabilisation works, the Town Clerk was pleased to report that no further slippage had occurred.

The elements of the development which will be completed in time for the holiday season were highlighted, namely the new Shore Road toilets in mid-July 2014 and the Broad Road stabilisation works, which are now complete.

It was further reported that the contractors' fencing running along Shore Road will be moved back to improve access for the public during Carnival week for the fireworks displays and Carnival Procession.

6) Wessex Water – proposals to improve the Ulwell stream outfall

A brief outline was given by the Chairman of emails received from Wessex Water regarding the proposed plans for improvements to the Ulwell stream outfall.

Martin Tidman, Wessex Water representative, then gave an overview of the issues at the stream and an update on the present position. It was reported that, although the Environment Agency was happy with the performance of the overflow, improvements have been identified and approved by Wessex Water for the Shore Road combined sewer overflow, which will reduce the impact on Ulwell Stream. This will include new venting, screening and a wash down system to remove more sediment. Wessex Water were unable to obtain funding for these works during 2013/14 and the above improvements will now be carried out during the financial year 2015/16.

Mr M Tidman left the meeting at 3.40 p.m.

7) Beach Events & ‘Beach Boot Camps’ - Consideration of requests received to hold such events

Clarification was requested regarding requests received to hold events on the town’s beaches and what types of events would be considered appropriate by the Committee. Concerns were raised surrounding risk assessments, public safety, insurance, the possible impact on beach concessions and local businesses, size of events and time of season. It was therefore AGREED:

That all requests for events to be held on the beach should be referred to the Chairman of the Tourism Committee, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to enable them to undertake due diligence before agreement was given to such requests.

8) Seagull Posters – Consideration of request to put new signs in place

Concern was expressed regarding seagulls and the increasingly aggressive behaviour displayed by them. Consideration was given to a request for new, more informative, seagull signs, similar to those displayed by other Councils in the area. It was therefore AGREED:

That advisory posters be put up at a number of seafront locations and that contact be made with East Devon Council to seek permission to adapt their design.

9) North Beach, Burlington Chine & foreshore – Dogs/dog fouling issues and request for extension of Dogs on Beach Byelaws

Consideration was given to a request for an extension of Dogs on Beach Byelaws and clarification of foreshore regulations for the above stretch of private beach.

A brief outline was given by the Chairman of an email received from a member of the public who was not in favour of any amendment to the Byelaws.

A discussion ensued regarding the issues with stray dogs and fouling, Purbeck District Council’s responsibility as the Byelaw Authority, and the difficulties surrounding the policing of the Town Council-owned foreshore in view of the changing tides.

It was reported that there were very few instances of dog fouling at Ocean Bay in the last 7 years (2 reported) where there is a sign at the bottom of the slipway stating “Well behaved dogs welcome on leads”. Comment was made that it may be prudent for North Beach and beach hut owners to consider the same signage.

The general consensus of the Committee was that any change in the Byelaws could have an adverse effect on the town’s tourism trade and give the incorrect impression that Swanage was not a dog-friendly town. It was therefore AGREED:

That the Beach Management Sub-Committee could not support a request to Purbeck District Council to extend the Dogs on Beach Byelaws.

It was, however, agreed that the Council would review the wording on its website regarding dogs on the beach regulations and also include a paragraph regarding the private beach areas to ensure that the guidelines were clear and fair.

Councillor Mrs Patrick left the meeting at 4.05 p.m.

10) Updates from Representatives/Organisations

R.N.L.I.

Plans had now been approved for the new boathouse and also the demolition and rebuild of Swanage Angling Clubhouse, with an anticipated start date of mid-November 2014. During the closure of the boat park the RNLI were keen to clarify launch alternatives and the possibility of opening the slipway when building work is not being undertaken. Lifeboat Week will be held from 8th to 17th August this year.

North Beach Users

It was reported that Dorset County Council have agreed to refresh the yellow cross hatching near the slipway at Ocean Bay.

Pier

No items to report.

Ocean Bay Watersports

It was reported that Dorset County Council had agreed to the resurfacing of Shore Road. Issues had been seen at Easter with boats/jet skis launching from the slipway illegally without the correct insurance/certification or lifejackets. Thanks were given to the Town Council for installing the new litter bin on the Beach at Ocean Bay.

Coastwatch

Concerns were raised regarding the closure of the boat park and the impact this may have on traffic and public safety. The 5 knot bay speed restrictions, buoys and water Enforcement Officer are now in place for the coming season.

Coastguard

It was reported that the new landslip/beach closure signs have now been delivered. Defibrillator training was due to be given to the Beach Wardens next week.

Tourist Information Centre

The Beach Wardens had now been recruited for the coming season and are eager to be involved in giving talks and to undertake sea and beach awareness activities. The next event is planned for Thursday 24th July 2014 and will include information as well as fun activities. This year's Beach Clean activity had been cancelled by the school taking part, however, planning is already underway for next year's event. This has been opened up to all local schools and the Tourist Information Centre will be seeking a new school to lead the activities.

7) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

- a) Enforcement Officer (on the water)** – concerns were raised regarding the budget available for this service in future years. An update was required from Purbeck District Council and requested as an Agenda item for the next Meeting.

8) Provisional Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 15th October 2014 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.
