

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Swanage,
on **WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2015** at **4.30 p.m.**

In Attendance: Councillor Bonfield – Chairman
Councillor Mrs Marsh

Ms R Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
PCSO T Ferrari – Dorset Police
Mr N Field – Maritime Coastguard Agency
PC K Hickman – Dorset Police
Mr G King – Swanage Angling Club
Mr R Martin – Swanage Sailing Club
Mr M Slater – Swanage Boat Hire
Mr D Turnbull – Swanage Lifeboat
Mr G Wallace – Swanage Sea Rowing Club
Mr C Wiggins – Beach Concession Operators

Miss N Clark – Management Support Officer

Public Participation Time

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

1) Apologies

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor Mrs Green, Mr K Bragg (Private Beach Huts Representative), Mr I Brown (MCA), Mr J Deare (North Beach Representative), Mr M Goater (Purbeck District Council), Mr T Greasty (Designated Bathing Zone Representative), Mrs G Jennings (Swanage Sea Rowing Club), Mr A Mears (Wessex Water Representative), Mr G Richardson (RNLI) and Mr J Taylor (Pierhead Watersports Byelaw Enforcement).

2) To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 22nd July 2015

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Marsh, seconded by Mr G King and
RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the
Beach Management Advisory Committee
held on 22nd July 2015 be approved as a
correct record and signed.

3) Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 22nd July 2015.

7) Updates from Representatives/Organisations

North Beach Representative – it was reported that Purbeck District Council had confirmed that it would be in order for North Beach Representatives to repaint the groyne numbers, which had become very worn.

4) Beach recharge - update

An overview was given of an email received from Purbeck District Council

(PDC). Discussions had been held with the authorities involved in the Poole and Christchurch Bays Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and consideration was being given to a possible partnership to implement a joint scheme to recharge all the beaches in the SMP area. This would be a longer term plan and discussions were ongoing. A further update would be requested for a future meeting.

5) Wessex Water – update on proposals to improve the Ulwell stream outfall

An overview was given of an email received from Wessex Water. Engineers were currently working on a detailed design proposal and it was intended that the works would be completed by 31st March 2016. A briefing note, including photographs and a picture of what the proposed improvements would look like, had also been supplied by the Wessex Water Networks Design Engineer, copies of which were provided to Committee Members at the meeting.

Committee Members welcomed the proposed changes and were looking forward to the works finally being completed.

6) Five knot speed limit enforcement in the bay – to consider possible improvements

An overview was given of an email received from the Station Officer, Swanage Coastguard, regarding speeding incidents and enforcement issues experienced in Swanage bay, particularly during Carnival week. Copies of emails from the Safety & Security Manager, Poole Harbour Commissioners, and the Marine Sergeant, Dorset Police Marine Section, were included which suggested ways in which they could possibly assist with such issues in the future. Copies of the emails had been circulated with the agenda paperwork.

It was reported that the current Enforcement Officer would not be continuing the bay control in 2016 as it was no longer viable for him to do so, the allowance only allowed for a two-hour patrol per week, and it was felt that on busy days a continuous presence was required. The general consensus was that Enforcement Officer presence was a deterrent and did slow boat users down, and it was felt that if there was no enforcement in the bay in 2016 then these types of incidents could only increase. It was noted that there was no notification of speed limit from Old Harry Rocks to Ocean Bay.

A discussion ensued and comments and suggestions were made which included:

- Identification of the five knot buoys should be better advertised
- Possible production of safety leaflets and posters which could be used for e.g. a mailshot to local boat yards and relevant businesses, displayed in pubs and public toilets, or handed out at Swanage and Studland bays by Beach Wardens
- The possible introduction of a ‘safety boat’ in the bay
- Possible contact with Poole Marina and Poole Harbour Commissioners for advice on these matters and to enquire what procedures were in place in Poole
- It was reported that circa 60 names and addresses had been handed in to PDC and an enquiry made as to what had happened with these, and what the penalties were – it was confirmed that there was a maximum fine of £1,000
- The RNLI representative advised that it might be possible to incorporate these matters within the new Community Safety Action Plan, as issues for Swanage and Studland, and it was noted that resources could possibly be available from the RNLI

It was agreed that a meeting should take place between interested parties to discuss a possible solution/future enforcement services before the start of next

season. It was therefore AGREED:

That a meeting be arranged between the Town Council, PDC, the current Enforcement Officer, Dorset Police Marine Section, Swanage Police, Swanage Coastguard, Ocean Bay Watersports and the RNLI Community Safety Officer.

It was noted that the Marine Section would be asked to attend Swanage Carnival week in 2016.

7) North Beach, Burlington Chine & foreshore – to consider the possibility of a new leaflet confirming dogs on beach regulations

An overview was given of an email received from a private beach hut owner raising concerns regarding dogs on North Beach and the North Beach Foreshore, and private beach dog guidelines. The feeling was that dog owners were being directed to North Beach when Main Beach was closed to dogs (between May and September each year). A request was therefore made for consideration of a new leaflet for Beach Wardens to hand out which explained the current guidelines. A copy of the email had been circulated with the agenda paperwork.

In response to the email, a further email had been received from the North Beach Representative clarifying that both Ulwell and Highcliffe Beach Huts had signs in situ stating “Private Beach. Dogs must be kept on a lead.”.

A discussion ensued and the general consensus was that although the Beach Wardens did do a good job managing the beach, a small leaflet may be of more use to visitors than just verbal advice. Stocks of such a leaflet could also be provided to local businesses. A suggestion was made that private beach/beach hut owners could be canvassed with regard to sharing printing costs.

The Chairman reported that a similar request had previously been received and referred to Minute No. 9) of the Beach Management Sub-Committee Meeting held on 2nd July 2014. It was confirmed that the wording had been reviewed and updated on the Town Council’s 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 had also been suggested at that meeting that it may be prudent for North Beach and private beach hut owners to consider improving their own signage.

It was therefore AGREED:

That the possibility of a leaflet be considered further at a future meeting of the Town Council’s Tourism Committee.

**8) Updates from Representatives/Organisations – feedback from 2015 season and plans for next year
Swanage Angling Club**

It was reported that the club’s annual Save the Children Swanage Beach Open fishing competition would be held on Saturday 31st October 2015. Members of the England Team would be taking part. Thanks were given to Swanage Tourist Information Centre for the use of a beach hut for the event.

Beach Concession

A disappointing season was reported due to the poor weather. However, the Moonfleet cutter sailing trips around the bay, and the Russian ‘pirate ship’ used in the bay for the filming of a Peter Pan drama, had been great attractions to local residents and visitors alike.

Comments were made regarding beach raking and whether this could be undertaken more frequently during the months of July and August, from the Mowlem to the Clock Tower jetty. It was felt that this was important as it not only looked good, it showed visitors that Swanage was proud of and cared about its beach. The Chairman confirmed that the removal of seaweed from the beach looked likely to exceed budget this season and the Town Council may look at alternative ways of undertaking the raking in the future. Thanks were given to all for their hard work this season.

Ocean Bay Watersports

A quiet summer was reported. An update was given on the litter problems which had previously been experienced at Ocean Bay, there had been a reduction seen recently in beach users leaving rubbish at the top of the beach and on the pavement. The Chairman confirmed that a meeting would be held in due course between Dorset Waste Partnership and the Town Council to discuss services provided in the town. A question was again raised as to whether bins could be installed near Battlegate toilets, which was considered to be a better position and could encourage use before beach users returned to their cars.

Swanage Sea Rowing Club

Thanks were given to all who had assisted the club this year. The boathouse was 'bedding in' as a function venue and had hosted various events including weddings, parties and a wake. The club now had over 150 members and was reported to be 'buzzing'.

RNLI

It had been an interesting year for Swanage RNLI. The building works were underway and they had moved out of the old boathouse in February 2015. The works were reported to be approximately six to eight weeks behind schedule as asbestos had been found, and there had been problems underground. A large site crane had arrived on 6th October 2015 and works were now progressing.

It had been a busy summer with 22 call-outs for the inshore lifeboat and 27 for the larger all-weather lifeboat. An update was given on the new Shannon class lifeboat which had been built, which would hopefully be in the water in November 2015, and fully operational in Swanage by the May Bank Holiday 2016. Crew training was scheduled for February 2016. The new lifeboat would operate from temporary moorings.

Lifeboat Week had been very successful, and next year's event would be held from 12th to 21st August 2016. The Community Safety Action Plan was progressing.

Swanage Boat Hire

Mr M Slater reported that although he was now semi-retired, he would be interested in tendering for the boat concession when it came up for tender in 2016. The Chairman confirmed that this would be brought to the attention of the Town Clerk accordingly. It was noted that Mr Slater had operated a water taxi service in the bay for over 25 years.

Maritime Coastguard Agency

It was reported that the Coastguard team had had a fairly quiet year, with 85 callouts in total, 38 of which had been since the last Committee meeting in July 2015, including two searches for missing persons, a fallen climber, three road accidents, and a dive incident. Concerns were raised regarding speeding boats acting dangerously in the bay and, as reported in the minutes of the last meeting, incidents involving dogs had increased. The question was raised as to whether a paragraph on dog safety could be added to the new Beach Warden leaflet, if it was approved.

It was further reported that calls had been received from concerned members of the public regarding a 'wheel' at Shep's Hollow which could be seen at low tide, and which had previously been used for mooring. The question was raised as to whether this could be removed, and it was confirmed that this request would be discussed with the Operations Manager accordingly.

Congratulations were given to Station Officer Ian Brown who had completed 25 years' service with the Coastguards today.

Swanage Sailing Club

A poor season was reported, disappointingly races had been cancelled due to poor weather conditions, winds having either been too high or non-existent.

9) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

There were no matters to report.

10) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 4.30 p.m. However, it was reported by the Chairman that pupils from St Mary's Catholic Primary School had requested to attend the next meeting of the Committee and in view of school hours they had asked if the meeting time could be brought forward to 2.30 p.m. to allow them sufficient time at the meeting to partake in Public Participation Time and undertake a 'Question and Answer' session with the Committee. It was therefore agreed that the meeting time would be brought forward to 2.30 p.m. for the February 2016 meeting only.

The meeting closed at 5.15 p.m.
