

Minutes of a Meeting of the **BEACH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE** held at the RNLi Boathouse, Peveril Point Road, Swanage, on **WEDNESDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2017** at **2.15 p.m.**

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

Mr A Allison – Swanage Angling Club
Mr K Bragg – Private Beach Huts Representative
Mr J Deare – North Beach Representative
Mr S Hill – Swanage Boat Hire – until 3.00 p.m.
Mr R Johnson – Swanage Pier
Ms K Jury – Maritime Coastguard Agency
Mr G King – Swanage Angling Club
Mr R Marsh – Quay Representative
Mr G Richardson – RNLi Community Sea Safety Team
Mr J Taylor – Pierhead Watersports

Councillor M Whitwam
Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Mr G Brookes – Operations Manager
Miss N Clark – Management Support Officer
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services Manager & Business
Development Officer

Other Attendees: Mrs Nash and four pupils from St Mary’s Catholic Primary School
Mr M Turnbull, Swanage Coastal Change Forum

Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chairman gave thanks to the Swanage RNLi Crew for the use of the new boathouse.

Public Participation Time

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

The Chairman welcomed pupils from St Mary’s Catholic Primary School. The pupils took the opportunity to ask the Committee a variety of questions during Public Participation Time. Questions and comments raised included:

- A query regarding ‘Lost Children’ procedures for North Beach, and whether it would be possible to have RNLi Lifeguard cover on that part of the beach.
- The lack of litter bins on the beach.
- Concerns raised regarding instances of dog fouling in the town’s parks and gardens, and on the beach, and whether the Town Council would consider a ‘dog free’ zone.
- Whether the Town Council would consider installing a water fountain/splash play area.
- Problems encountered with rusty locks at Burlington Chine public toilets, and whether Town Council toilets could be open for longer in the summer season.
- Whether the Council would consider closing the south section of Shore Road all year round, and not just from May to September each year.

The Chairman thanked the pupils for their valued input to the meeting, and it was hoped that they would continue to attend meetings of the Committee in the future. The Chairman also confirmed that he would welcome the opportunity to visit the school with the Management Support Officer to provide feedback to the School Council, and to discuss the questions raised in more detail.

1) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Mr R Brockman (North Beach Representative), Mr I Brown (MCA), Ms R Compton (Ocean Bay Watersports), Mr N Field (MCA), Mr T Greasty (Craft Free Zone Representative), Mr E Taylor (Wessex Water Representative), and Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concession Operators' Representative).

2) **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 19th October 2016**

It was proposed by Councillor Bonfield, and agreed, that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 19th October 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed.

3) **Matters arising from Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 19th October 2016**

a) **Wessex Water – update on proposals to improve the Ulwell Stream outfall**

It was reported that the new grille had now been installed by Wessex Water at the Ulwell Stream outfall, and a photograph was provided to Committee Members for information purposes. A combination lock had been fitted to the grille, the code to which would be held by the Town Council, and Ocean Bay Watersports, for health and safety purposes. Members welcomed completion of these works.

b) **Minutes of the Meeting of the Tourism Committee held on 23rd November 2016**

In view of the number of recommendations made by the Beach Management Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 19th October 2016, a copy of the Minutes of the Tourism Committee Meeting held in November 2016, at which the recommendations were considered, was provided to Committee Members for information/update purposes.

4) **Lifeguards and sea safety**

a) **Update on plans for 2017**

Further to Minute No. 4 a) i) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2016, it was reported that the budget for lifeguards had been approved, there had been no increase in costs to the Town Council, and Option 2 of the 'Swanage RNLi Lifeguard Service Options' would be implemented in the the summer season 2017. The lifeguards' hut/flagged area would be located on the north side of Banjo Pier, providing better beach coverage, and the craft free zone would be extended so that it would be in line with the flagged area. The service would run from Whitsun Half Term until the end of September, and these arrangements would be reviewed again in the autumn.

b) **Five knot speed limit enforcement in the bay - update**

Further to Minute No. 4 a) ii) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2016, it was reported that discussions were ongoing regarding

the proposals for a RNLI Lifeguard watercraft to assist the Town Council with an ‘advisory’ waterborne presence that would be able to inform water users of local byelaws and speed restrictions, acting as a deterrent to any rule breaking. A site meeting was being held with the Operations Manager to discuss a suitable location for the siting of a container to house the watercraft when it was not in operation.

c) RNLI lifejacket lockers

Further to Minute No. 4 c) of the Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 19th October 2016, it was reported that nine RNLI lifejacket lockers would be installed at the Stone Quay. The lockers would be free to use, a £1 deposit being refunded when keys were returned, and the Town Council was currently in discussion with a local business to provide 24-hour ‘master key holder’ cover.

A question was raised as to whether lockers could be considered at Main Beach, which could be used as a secure storage facility for personal belongings when members of the public/families went swimming.

Mr S Hill and the representatives from St Mary’s Catholic Primary School left the meeting at 3.00 p.m.

5) Review of enforcement activities along Shore Road/the seafront, Beach Regulations and signage - update

Further to Minute No. 4 b) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2016, it was reported that the Town Council’s seafront/beach signage, and wording of the Beach Regulations, was currently being reviewed, and new/improved signage would be in situ by Easter 2017.

It was further reported that the recruitment process for an additional Town Council Enforcement Officer had commenced. This would be a seasonal position from June until October, and the postholder would assist with extra patrols along the seafront, providing members of the public with advice/guidance on byelaws and seafront/beach regulations.

6) Beach recharge – update

A brief update was given on the Swanage Coastal Change Forum (SCCF) Meeting that had been held earlier in the day. It was reported that the beach was slowly deteriorating, and discussions were ongoing regarding the planned trials for dumping sand in Swanage bay. Concerns had previously been raised by Natural England regarding the trials, and funding options were still to be explored.

The last recharge had been undertaken over the winter of 2005/06 and had been expected to last for 20 years. Detailed studies of the bay/beach were being undertaken, and the situation was being monitored by the Channel Coastal Observatory.

SCCF were currently investigating/collating data to enable them to put an amenity value on the beach, to help unlock funding for future beach replenishment, and would be researching appropriate tourism data for the beach. They had also been in consultation with the Environment Agency regarding flood defence, and the importance of protecting the town against rising sea levels in the future. A meeting would be held in May 2017 to consider the data and formulate proposals for the way forward.

7) #2 minute beach clean – beach clean station boards - update

Further to Minute No. 4 c) of the Tourism Committee Meeting held on 23rd

November 2016, it was reported that agreement in principle had been given to the trial of two #2 minute beach clean station boards for the 2017 season. Each board would cost £250, and it was explained that the purpose of the boards was to remind members of the public of the importance of picking up their own litter. Local coastal forums were in support of this initiative, which was being rolled-out across the county.

The boards would be available during the day, and taken in at night. Possible locations for them included the seafront near to the Tourist Information Centre, and the Stone Quay. A comment was made that it might be more prudent to site one near to the Pier. The Visitor Services Manager would investigate options, and a review of the trial would be given at the October Committee Meeting.

8) Updates from representatives/organisations

Swanage Coastal Change Forum

A reminder was given regarding the SCCF meeting being held in May, the details of which would be publicised locally in due course.

North Beach Representative

Concerns were again raised regarding the lack of litter bins on Main Beach/in Shore Road, and the continuing problems with black bin bags/rubbish being left at the top of the beach, on the pavement, and near to the bins on the private beach. A query was raised regarding the opening hours for the Council's public toilets.

Maritime Coastguard Agency

A busy year was reported, with the Swanage Coastguard Team attending some 120 callouts. The team was now fully trained in search & rescue, rope, mud, water and cliff rescue, and were keen to introduce themselves to/work in partnership with the RNLI Lifeguard Team when the service commenced again this season. It was noted that the MCA/Coastguard Stations were currently in the process of going through an audit.

Quay Representative

Concerns were raised regarding congestion seen around the Quay area at times during last season, with various traders and picnic tables. It was reported that the District Council had been made aware of these problems.

A query was raised as to whether the Stone Quay would be repointed. It was reported by the Operations Manager that a structural survey had been completed, and the budget had been allocated for these works. It was also possible that grant funding may be available towards preservation of the Quay.

Swanage Angling Club

It was reported that the Club had now moved into their new clubhouse, and that it was good to be 'home'. The Club's annual trophy and charity presentation evening would be held at the Conservative Club on 24th February 2017.

Swanage Pier

The outcome of the Pier's applications for grants from the Heritage Lottery and Coastal Communities Funds would be announced in March 2017. If successful, it was hoped that the preservation works would commence during 2018.

A reminder was given that the second Purbeck Pirate Festival would be held from Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July 2017.

Private Beach Huts Representative

It was reported by the Operations Manager that the staging for the beach huts would be checked and ready for the huts by Saturday 1st April 2017.

It was noted that the owners' Public Liability Insurance Policy details had been finalised, and a copy would be provided to the TIC for review in due course.

Swanage RNLI

It was reported that the building works were nearly complete, and it was hoped that the building would be formally handed over to the RNLI during the week commencing 27th February 2017, the footpath would then reopen. Both lifeboats would operate from the new boathouse, which would be open to the public from Easter.

An official opening/naming ceremony would be held on Saturday 29th April 2017 at 11.00 a.m. This would be a public event, and details would be published/invites sent out in due course.

9) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

a) Swanage Tourist Information Centre (TIC) – relaunch and open day

April 2017 – it was reported that the building works were on schedule to be completed by the end of March 2017. A public open day would be held in early April, which would provide members of the public with the opportunity to view the improved building/facilities, and participate in a range of family activities which were being planned. A ‘corporate’ evening would also be held for local businesses to view the building, meet the TIC Team, and to raise awareness of the services offered. Invites would be sent out in due course.

b) Blue Flag and Seaside Award application 2017 – update – it was reported that the Blue Flag and Seaside Award application had been submitted in January, the results of which would be known/published in early May 2017.

c) Swanage RNLI Lifeboat Week 2017 – it was reported that Swanage Lifeboat Week would be held from 11th to 20th August this year.

10) Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting, planned for early June 2017, would be confirmed after the Annual Council Meeting in May 2017.

It was noted that Committee Members felt that meetings should continue to be held three times per annum, and that these meetings should take place at least three to four weeks prior to the Tourism Committee meetings

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.
