

Minutes of a Meeting of the **COASTAL CHANGE & BEACH MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
held at the Town Hall, Swanage, on **WEDNESDAY**
21st JUNE 2023 at 2.15 p.m.

In Attendance: Councillor M Bonfield – Chairman

Mr B Compton – Ocean Bay Watersports
Mr A Frampton – FCERM, BCP
Mr A Mears – Wessex Water
Mr M Penny – FCERM Team, Dorset Council
Mr H Potter – Swanage Pier Trust (attended remotely)
Mr N Reed – Environment Agency
Mr G Richardson - RNLI
Ms E Steenkamp – FCERM Team, Dorset Council
Mr M Turnbull – Swanage Coastal Change Forum

Councillor T Foster
Dr M Ayres – Town Clerk
Mrs E Evans – Democratic Services Officer
Mr C Milmer – Visitor Services & Business Development Manager
Ms G Percival – Assets and Compliance Manager

There was one member of the local press present at the meeting.

Public Participation Time

There were no matters raised on this occasion.

1) **Election of chairman and Terms of Reference**

a) **To elect the chairman**

It was proposed by Mr G Richardson, seconded by Mr N Reed and AGREED:
That Councillor Bonfield be elected Chairman of
the Coastal Change and Beach Management
Advisory Committee for 2023/24.

b) **To review the Terms of Reference and to incorporate Swanage Coastal Change Matters**

Following a recent decision to discontinue meetings of the Swanage Coastal Change Forum, it was agreed that key items from its Terms of Reference (ToR) should be incorporated into the ToR of the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory Committee (CCBMAC). A suggestion was made that the CCBMAC incorporate topics such as the impact of climate change into the Terms of Reference, however, it was felt additional time was needed to consider the document. Members of the Advisory Committee were asked to forward any suggestions for the ToR to the Town Clerk or Democratic Services Officer in preparation of the CCBMAC meeting in the Autumn. It was therefore AGREED:

That Agenda Item 1b) be deferred to the next meeting of
the Coastal Change and Beach Management Advisory
Committee for consideration.

In terms of Advisory Committee Membership, it was noted that the former chairmen of the Swanage Coastal Change Forum, Mr M Turnbull and Mr T Flux, had been invited to today's meeting and it was agreed that they should also be invited to become advisory committee members.

2) **Apologies**

Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillor C Moreton, Mr I Brown (Coastguard Station Officer), Mr P Connelly (Environment Agency), Mr J Deare (North Beach Representative), Mr T Flux (National Trust), Mr T Greasty (Designated Bathing Zone Representative), Mr R Marsh (Stone Quay Representative), Mr S Norsworthy (FCERM, Dorset Council), Mr P Palmer (Pierhead Watersports/Bay Safety), Mr D Roper (Swanage Angling Club), Mr S Thompson (Cumulus), Mr D Turnbull (Swanage Lifeboat), Mr C Wiggins (Beach Concessions Representative) and Ms E Wright (National Trust).

3) **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Beach Management Advisory Committee held on 8th February 2023**

Proposed by Mr G Richardson, seconded by Councillor M Bonfield and AGREED:-

That the Minutes of the Beach Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on 8th February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4) **Shoreline Management Plan – presentation from Alan Frampton, Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM), Strategy and Policy Manager, BCP Council**

Further to Minute No.3 of the Beach Management Advisory Committee meeting held on 27th April 2022, an informative presentation was provided by Alan Frampton which included the following matters:

- Explanation of the role of Shoreline Management Plans (SMP)
- SMP Refresh – kept up to date in line with new guidance, legislation, and environmental designations to ensure the documents reflect the most appropriate policies.
- Detailed the Poole and Christchurch Bays SMP15 (relevant to Swanage area) and the review process currently being undertaken by a management group which consists of representatives of a wide range of relevant organisations.
- Minor amendments were proposed to the policy statements in respect of policy units N1 (New Swanage) and O1 (Durlston Bay), highlighting the importance of a cliff management strategy for New Swanage and the fact that existing cliff-stability measures in Durlston Bay would not be maintained or replaced in the future. The amendments did not constitute a policy change, but provided clarification of the adopted policy intent.
- The SMP is part of a wider process, i.e. Set the policy – Plan the strategy – Scheme on ground.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that further information is available via the following website: www.twobays.net.

During the ensuing discussion, the importance of aligning the developing Swanage Neighbourhood Plan with the SMP was highlighted. The Chairman thanked Mr Frampton for an informative presentation.

5) **Swanage Town Centre Coastal Protection Scheme, Beach Renourishment scheme and Cliff Management Strategy – presentation from Dorset Council's Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Team**

A presentation regarding three major projects currently being led by Dorset Council was provided by members of the FCERM team:

- Town Centre Coastal Protection Scheme/flood alleviation project – the anticipated timelines for developing the scheme during 2023/24 were explained and potential options for the coastal flood defences from the Mowlem to the Stone Quay were presented.
- Beach renourishment – it was explained that a business case is being developed and various options are being reviewed. Proposals are at an early stage of development and a timeline for decision making was set out.
- Swanage and Durlston Cliff Management Strategy – being developed further to the recommendation set out in the SMP. Those present were informed that funding has been awarded and a consultant is being procured. It is anticipated that this work will include the development of a coastal adaption plan which will help provide guidance for private property owners in these areas.

It was noted that both BCP and Dorset Council work closely on projects affecting the Swanage coastline and that Dorset Coast Forum would be coordinating public engagement on these projects.

The Chairman thanked Mr Penny and Ms Steenkamp for keeping the Advisory Committee up to date with information about these important projects.

6) **Swanage Seafront Masterplan – update**

An update was provided by the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager (VSBDM) which included the following points:

- The consultation on the draft Swanage Seafront Masterplan document was now live and those present were encouraged to visit the DCF website to provide feedback at: www.dorsetcoasthaveyoursay.co.uk/swanage-seafront-masterplan
- Attendees were notified that a public engagement event would be held on Thursday 22nd June 2023 between 4.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. at The Mowlem.

7) **Update from the Visitor Services and Business Development Manager**

The VSBDM provided an update which included:

- **Events** - Antiques Roadshow on Swanage Pier Friday 23rd June 2023
 - Swanage Carnival 29th July – 6th August 2023
 - Swanage Rowing Regatta end of September 2023 - National qualifier event
- **Boat Park** - Investment has led to positive feedback from users of the facility.
 - Water taps and a hose are now available to wash down boats.
 - Dedicated telephone line and additional staff in place.
 - There had been an increase in custom and few complaints.
- **Seafront Advisors** - STC had received a grant from Dorset Council to fund an additional Seafront Advisor to assist with waste and provide extra capacity over the peak season.
- **Shower area adjoining Shore Rd public conveniences** - STC would be trialling a new anti-slip paint.
- **RNLI Lifeguards** – The lifeguard station on Swanage beach will be manned from 27th May – 10th September 2023.

8) **Updates from representatives/organisations**

- **Coastguard** – There had been a drop in number of incidents but those attended were more severe.

- **RNLI – Sea safety campaign** – Whistle for help. Looking for any organisations to form part of an Ambassador Scheme to help spread the message by displaying posters with QR codes to provide a quick way to receive safety messages.
 - Rotary had joined as an Ambassador and would be holding their annual Fete on 10th July 2023.
 - Lifeboat Week will be held w/c 12th August 2023.
- **RNLI Lifeboat** – There had been 30/40 launches so far this year, compared with 50/60 launches in same period last year.
- **Wessex Water** – The most recent discharge from the outfall at Peveril Point had occurred at the end of May 2023. Members of the Advisory Committee were invited to attend a sewage works tour on Friday 30th June 2023 @ 10 a.m.
- **Swanage Pier** – BBC Springwatch filmed from the Pier recently and Antiques Roadshow would be filming Friday 23rd June 2023.
 - The Pier will be working with Swanage Railway on joint promotions.

9) **Items of information and matters for forthcoming agendas**

a) **Swanage Town Centre Flood Defences**

It was noted that the work on developing proposals is ongoing, as reported under Minute No. 5, above.

b) **Strengthening Enforcement of the Dangerous Use of Recreational and Personal Watercraft - Consultation Update**

The information was noted, and it was reported that the work of the Swanage and Studland Bay Water safety group had been recognised at a national level.

10) **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 2.15 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.
