

DYMCHURCH BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

25th MAY, 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Cllr. Russell Tillson, Dymchurch Parish Council,
Colin Demeza, Environment Agency
Seb Bishop, Environment Agency
Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Chairman Dymchurch Parish Council
Gill Smith, Clerk to the parish council

APOLOGIES:

Ian Nunn, Environment Agency
Dean Smith, Environment Agency
No response from SDC

MINUTES OF MEETING 17 FEBRUARY, AND MATTERS ARISING

All agreed that the minutes were a true record. No matters arising.

SEAWALL SAFETY ISSUES:

Colin informed that two incidents have been reported to the EA regarding persons slipping on the seawall. EA has requested additional information from the complainants but to date no further information has been received. Russell and Roger have a settled view that warning signs on the seawall are more than adequate. Seb advised he is considering additional signs that will identify where people are on the seawall and highlight the nearest access points from that standpoint. Russell said the parish council would not oppose this consideration. EA is planning an article in The Looker that shows the revetments being jet-washed and will highlight how and when maintenance takes place.

OTHER EA REPAIR WORKS/UPDATE:

EA conducts regular maintenance checks and as work is identified it is actioned accordingly. There have been no reports from the public that maintenance work is required. Seb informed that an on-site meeting was arranged with resident, Mr. Josh, to discuss shingle on the seawall, to which Mr. Josh invited numerous people to attend. The situation resulted in a free-for-all, that was not helpful and proportioned blame onto the EA for not cleaning litter and dog waste from the seawall. EA has requested a meeting with SDC to discuss and clarify functions on the seawall. To date, SDC has not responded to the EA's request to meet.

Russell and Roger requested that SDC be asked to send a representative to the BAG meetings as the presence and knowledge of past SDC's officers Colin Paine and Alexander Sansom has been greatly missed.

Roger requested EA to cut the grass at the back of The Ocean Inn car park next time the cutters are out.

BEACH AND SEAWALL AREA RENOVATIONS / KIOSK UPDATE:

Gill informed the base at the site of the former kiosk is to be resurfaced with appropriate edging, slopes and handrails, to enable seating and possibly tables to be installed. The Town of Salbris, which is twinned with Dymchurch, has informed it going to donate a seat to the

village. It is possible that the Dymchurch Twinning Committee may wish to consider this site for the new seat.

MEMORIAL SEATING & OTHER SEATING UPDATE:

As above. There have been no further offers of memorial seating to date.

SEAWALL AND SLIPWAY PARKING ISSUES:

Colin informed he is planning to erect signs in the area which has previously been identified as a nuisance for parking and will visit the site after the meeting.

Seb enquired if shutting the gate at the top of Martello Tower car park had helped with Jet-Ski issues and it was agreed this had helped the situation.

Gill advised cars are still driving on the seawall. EA is aware, as are the Police and Community Warden.

SEAWALL LITTER BIN AND TOILET CLEANING ISSUES:

Large bins have been placed on the slipway and waste bins are cleared regularly on the seawall. To date there have been no issues raised about either subject.

COASTAL COMMUNITY GROUP & WARD PLANS:

The coastal community group has not met since the project plan was finalised. The group is in need of a professional bid writer if it is to stand any chance of being successful in the bidding process. Roger will speak with Dave Illsley at SDC next week.

Roger informed that SDC's Ward Plan project has been suspended. There may be an alternative procedure put in place, whereby parish councils have the opportunity to bid for improvement projects. Should there be such an opportunity, solar lighting on the seawall will be applied for.

MARTELLO CAR PARK SKATE PARK FACILITY:

It is increasingly unlikely that grant funding for a skate park will be forthcoming. Gill will contact Jacqueline Stanley to enquire if EA will consider alternative use of the land.

VISITOR INFORMATION LEAFLET/ BEACH ACTIVITIES:

Dymchurch has a new information leaflet that was tabled.

On 25th June, The Royal British Legion will parade on the seawall in commemoration of Armed Forces Day.

During August, the parish council has engaged a children's entertainer who will engage children in activities for approximately 16 hours each week.

The Day of Syn will take place this year and activities such as pirates landing and re-inactments will take place on the beach and seawall during August bank-holiday weekend.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Seb informed that the Government-led Coastal Route /Path around Britain will use the seawall at Dymchurch and St. Mary's Bay as its route around this area. There is a problem when it reaches the Hythe area, particularly around the Hythe Ranges. The route for Dymchurch and St. Mary's Bay is however, simplified by utilising the seawall promenade. Certain signage will be erected in due course.

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 27 July, 9.30am DPC offices.