

DYMCHURCH BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 15 August, 2018, at 9.30am

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Dymchurch Parish Council, acting chair
Cllr. Richard Blackwell, Dymchurch Parish Council
Rachel Marshall, Frontier Engagement Team, Kent Police
Colin Demeza, Environment Agency
Derek Miller, F&H District Council
David Knight, Dymchurch Angling Club
Gill Smith, parish clerk

Apologies: Cllr. Russell Tillson, hospitalised

Minutes of the meeting held on 21st March, 2018, were agreed and accepted.

Seawall safety issues and repair works update:

Colin informed last year's hand-rail replacements have been completed. After Christmas, the far-end will receive new hand-rails and all steps down to the beach will then be fitted with hand-rails. A couple of non-slip pads are due to be replaced and a chip from a block near the car-park will also be repaired. The sun has killed-off most of the algae this summer. Colin will follow up the Danger Sign at Marshlands outfall which was reported missing. If it is in a tidal zone, it may not be replaced. Roger informed the e-mail from Simon Beal, outlining maintenance schedules, was most informative and greatly appreciated.

Operation Kracken and Pegasus:

Rachael highlighted incidents at Walmer and the trial regarding Dymchurch. Suspicious occurrences along the shore have been reported by members of the public who are becoming more vigilant. Operation Kracken and Pegasus are working well with the public supporting and reporting. The group discussed vessels being observed that would appear too small to cross the channel and are likely being dropped off by larger boats off the coast.

It was suggested the Romney Marsh web-site be used to promote posters and awareness. Rachael will make contact with Peter Faulkner.

Beach and seawall area update:

Parish council is considering a site for a defibrillator and considered the seawall. Clerk informed there is a Government initiative being considered whereby the Government is likely to provide every town and village with a defibrillator. The proposed block of flats by the slipway may provide an ideal place for a defibrillator to be sited. Gill will monitor the Gov'ts stance on this and keep the group informed. Ongoing.

CCTV and web-cam update:

No further information has been received from the Information Commissioners Office regarding a complaint made against the web-cam in June, 2017.

It is the general consensus that the web-cam and CCTV provides much needed security and reassurance to members of the public and the web-cam is greatly used by many people.

Seawall Slipway and Parking Issues:

David informed the Angling Club is still having its doors blocked by parked cars, preventing the tractor from being used. (The tractor is used to launch boats and respond to calls for assistance from RNLI.) Gill made contact with parking services at district council in March and an officer agreed to meet a representative from the Angling Club to discuss hatching outside its building. This was not pursued by the officer. Derek agreed to speak with Fredrick Miller to enquire about hatching outside the entrance and at the entrance to the slipway.

Richard highlighted the need to extend parking enforcement up to the new toilet block. Colin informed the EA would have no objection to the area being enforced, but EA cannot allocate funds for this purpose.

Roger recommended the parish council send a letter to Cabinet Member Cllr.

Malcolm Dearden requesting the district council includes the top of Sea Wall Road in a new Traffic Regulation Order to enable the existing yellow lines to become enforceable.

Memorial and other seating updates:

Sam Briggs of The Forge has informed the bench and table he is donating to the parish council, to commemorate WW1, will be available for end-October, together with the additional bench the parish council has commissioned.

Richard informed the Paul Nash Trail is to be placed on the seawall and is ongoing.

Seawall litter bin and toilet cleaning issues:

Gill has made a point of walking along the seawall once a week during the school holidays and has found the area to be spotless. The beach looks fantastic every morning and the litter is in bags waiting collection. There have been no complaints received at the parish council this season regarding the toilets or cleaning issues.

Any Other Business:

No issues raised.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 12th December, 2018 at 9.30am. DPC offices.

Meeting closed at 10.30am

RECOMMENDATION: Dymchurch Parish Council writes to Cabinet Member to request a Traffic Regulation Order be raised to provide enforcement at Sea Wall up to the new toilet block area and hatching be installed at the slipway entrance and outside Dymchurch Sea Angling Club.