

DYMCHURCH BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16th January, 2019, at 9.30am

MINUTES

Present: Cllr. Russell Tillson, Dymchurch Parish Council, chairman
Cllr. Roger Wilkins, Dymchurch Parish Council,
Cllr. Richard Blackwell, Dymchurch Parish Council
Rachel Marshall, Frontier Engagement Team, Kent Police
Simon Beal, Environment Agency
Derek Miller, F&H District Council
David Knight, Dymchurch Angling Club
Nigel Packer, RNLI
Gill Smith, parish clerk

Apologies: Colin Demeza – away

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising.

The minutes were agreed as a true record and no matters arising.

Seawall safety issues and repair works update:

Simon informed a contract has been raised for hand rails and anti-slip. By the end of this year, all rails will be of solid construction. Anti-slip will be an ongoing maintenance matter. The break-water has been fixed and some concrete is cracking that will be monitored following regular inspections. The redoubt was washed-out again and it has been noticed that cracking has appeared in a revetment. This is being monitored.

Stones and silt:

Stones are building up and there is an accumulation at the foreshore which is contributing to stones laying on the walkway/sea defence. EA has arranged for it to be collected and removed. Long-shore drift causes the build-up. The sea-defence will be swept before Easter.

Operation Kracken and Pegasus update:

During November and December, 33 incidents involving 300 persons including families and children were recorded. Members of the public are making contact regarding sitings which demonstrates that Kracken and Pegasus operations are working. Members of the public can also report incidents via country-eye app. Additional cutters are helping with the situation.

Nigel informed that a Dover lifeboat was fired upon when attending an incident. Rachel's advice is to keep looking, keep reporting and take registration numbers where possible.

Beach Watch:

Nigel provided an insight into the process for providing life guarding at Camber Sands and it is the wish of RNLI to introduce life guarding at other major beaches. The public are now looking to visit safe beaches that provide life guarding and this would have potential gains for any town or village. The RNLI will provide boats, 4x4, training, flags, publicity and signage; a council is required to provide the funding for the life guards. A ball-park figure for guidance was provided at about £50K for full coverage. The RNLI will conduct a safety road show at Dymchurch beach during August to begin the process of a risk assessment for beach safety. The risk assessment will be used to formulate discussions with the district council and the need for life guarding.

The beach advisory members were unanimous in their agreement that the parish council should pursue with the district council the need for life-guarding at Dymchurch and support the RNLI in exploring and developing a risk assessment.

Beach and Seawall Update:

Richard reported an information board on the seawall, near Sycamore Gardens, is blistering, and also contains some out of date information. Derek agreed to inform Alex Sansom.

CCTV and web-cam update:

A few incidents have taken place at the seawall and were not covered by the cameras. It was suggested that the parish council consider adding two more cameras that take in the east side of Sea Wall Road and the A259 to the school.

Memorial and other seating update:

Nothing to report.

Seawall and slipway parking issues:

Following Derek's intervention with parking problems outside the Angling Club, hatching has been placed on the road and is being very successful in deterring parking at the site. Richard suggested an additional sign by the disabled parking bays on EA land and Simon agreed a sign could be glued to the wall. Richard to investigate.

Seawall Litter bin and toilet cleaning issues:

David reported a litter bin behind the Angling Club has been removed and litter is accumulating. Richard informed a bin would be useful in front of Sea Heights. Russell to put in a request at district council.

Richard informed the shower area at the rear of the new toilet block needs a protective cover as green slim on the wall is off-putting. Russell agreed to raise this at district council and will speak with Alistair Clifford. Derek suggested a Perspex sheet maybe more favourable as tiling is likely to fall in permanently damp air.

Visitor information leaflets and other publicity:

Gill to organise distribution with Take One Media, from April throughout the summer.

Any other business:

Derek informed the Kent golden mile run will take place 19 June from Beach 48 to Marine Avenue from 5pm-8pm.

Simon informed maintenance to Clobsden sewer will be ongoing until March, and tree work at Willop sewer will be also be ongoing during this time.

Meeting closed at 11am.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, April 10th, 9.30am parish council offices.