

## **BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2017**

**at Dymchurch Parish Council offices**

### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Cllr. Russell Tillson, chairman of BAG  
Cllr. Roger Wilkins,  
Rachel Marshall, Frontier Engagement Team, Kent Police  
Colin Demeza, Environment Agency  
Richard Tournay, Environment Agency  
Gill Smith, parish clerk

**Apologies:** No apologies received but representatives from SDC, Coastguards and Angling Club were invited and asked to send representatives if they were unable to attend.

#### **Welcome to Rachel Marshall and Defence of Coast:**

Rachel introduced herself and informed the Frontier Engagement Team is part of Kent Police Special Branch and covers 350 miles of the Kent coast-line. It has been operating since October 2016 and its remit is to counter terrorism. The Team operates alongside Boarder Force and the National Crime Agency.

Rachel is in discussion with coastal parish councils, clubs and societies to establish liaison and develop an eyes and ears network along the coast with a view to encourage the reporting of anything unusual or suspicious. Operation Kracken and Operation Pegasus are being promoted to encourage members of the public to report matters to Kent Police and assist with detecting crime and terrorism.

Rachel is pleased with the response she has received to date from local organisations and informed there are many voluntary groups that are also assisting in the network of information; Thanet have a Guardians of the Sea voluntary group that keep a watch on anything suspicious, other local groups, particularly those that work or operate out-of-normal hours are reporting matters of unusual activity. Rachel has seen and likes the Dymchurch CCTV system and web-cam and Kent Police technology team have already seen and have access to it via Ashford Borough Council (ABC). Rachel plans to meet ABC monitoring service to observe what other areas in Kent are covered by the monitoring service.

Cllr. Tillson thanked Rachel for providing an informative introduction to her role and invited her or a colleague to join the Beach Advisory Committee and attend future meetings to provide updates and liaise with the group.

Rachel left the meeting after this report.

#### **Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> February:**

Minutes were agreed and there were no matters arising.

**Seawall Safety Issues and other EA Repair Works:**

Colin informed all was reasonably quiet at the moment.

Two accidents on the seawall, that were reported in the last six months, have not been pursued by the complainants.

A programme to start replacement hand-rails will commence this year. EA is planning new assisted hand rails in certain areas and other hand rails, at 47a, will be repaired. Steps at 7,8,11 and 14, are programmed in for repairs. Now the weather has improved, repairs can commence.

Gill enquired if the ramp at the beginning of the seawall, by Redoubt Fort was accessible to the public. Colin informed that whilst this entrance is open to the public it is not Equality Act compliant due to its gradient.

Colin and Richard left the meeting after this item.

**Beach and Seawall area/ well-being equipment:**

SDC chief executive has informed that work is progressing on a report to establish if life-guards are required on beaches in Shepway, but the report may not be completed until September 2017. Life-guards are not operating at Camber at the current time.

The well-being equipment is still being used occasionally, however, the promised warmer weather is likely to encourage greater use.

At a recent parish council meeting a resident requested signs be erected to deter the feeding of seagulls. The clerk has been informed that SDC liked the idea and is looking for budget provision to erect some signs.

**Memorial and seating update:**

A new memorial bench has been commissioned and will be sited to the west of the council's kiosk at central slipway.

**Seawall Litterbin and Toilet Cleaning issues:**

Large bins have been placed at the slipway ready for the start of the season. The outside tap at the rear of the seawall toilet block has still not been repaired. Clerk was made aware of this by Cllr. Lewis and reported the fault again to SDC on 2<sup>nd</sup> May together with a repeated request that the guttering also needs attention.

**Visitor Information Leaflet and Circulation:**

The leaflet was printed and delivered to Take One Media for distribution by mid-April. 1500 leaflets have been distributed to date and will continue to be replenished throughout the season.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13 September, at 9.30am, to be held at Dymchurch Parish Council offices.**