

# **DYMCHURCH BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016**

## **MINUTES**

### **Present:**

Cllr. Russell Tillson, Chairman  
Cllr. Roger Wilkins  
Colin Demeza, Environment Agency  
Gill Smith Clerk to the Parish Council

### **Apologies:**

Seb Bishop, Environment Agency  
Cllr. Richard Blackwell

### **Minutes of Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> July, and matters arising:**

Minutes agreed as a true record and no matters arising.

### **Seawall Safety Issues – EA update:**

Colin advised there have been no further incidents reported. Inspections have identified that a jet wash of the non-slip surface is required and this will be taking place within the next couple of weeks. New handrails will be installed at 47a (north to town slipway). Handrails are currently being fabricated and a solid galvanised structure will be trialled. This should be installed within the next month.

### **Revetments:**

The cracks in revetments 11 and 14 reported by the parish council (via Cllr. Terry Mullard) will be attended to imminently.

Colin informed work to the Marshland Basin will take place and this is currently out for discussion with contractors. Improvements being considered are:-

- Raising wall around the basin, or
- Install pen-stop at outfall end, or
- Other contractor suggestions to eliminate over-flow of basin.

The chosen option will commence around April time. The DPC village sign will be moved (slightly) at this time to allow for works and maintenance vehicles.

Colin informed that over the next 3 years, all handrails will be replaced and eventually all access points will have handrails installed.

Gill informed the demolished kiosk area has become a popular picnic spot and residents have made favourable comments about the improved site. Kiosks and their future use were discussed together with the option of the remaining kiosk, at the slipway, being used as an information point/exhibition at some time in the future with the possibility of building a parish council office above. Colin was of

the view that providing access to the beach is not compromised, the EA is unlikely to raise any objection.

**Memorial and other seating update:**

Colin received an enquiry about memorial seating and suggested the person make contact with DPC. There have been a couple of enquiries to DPC about memorial seating, but nothing has come to fruition at the current time.

**Seawall and Slipway Parking Issues:**

Gill informed a letter has been received about the misuse of the disabled parking bay by the Seawall. This is a matter that has been raised over several years at the Beach Advisory Committee meetings, but the EA's stance on the matter remains resolute. The EA's limited budget is to focus on sea defence and flooding issues and it is not prepared to commit limited revenue budgets on parking matters. Gill will write to the complainant accordingly.

**Seawall litter bin and toilet cleaning issues:**

The parish council has not received complaints this season regarding litter bins or toilet cleaning matters. Over the bank holiday, litter bins were full and most people put tied bags next to litter bins which were duly taken away by the next collection service. SDC did make the agreed 3 collections per day during this busy period.

**Summer holiday beach entertainment:**

Many complimentary remarks and letters have been received regarding the children's entertainment during August. The parish council has agreed to fund entertainment again next August and to increase the entertainment by another day. A meeting is scheduled for April next year when the Assets and Amenities Working Group will meet with the entertainers to discuss a suitable programme of events.

**Visitor Information Leaflet:**

The new Dymchurch leaflet has been distributed around the M25 corridor and North Kent shopping malls/visitor attractions. Council has already agreed a new print run of the leaflet and distribution will be undertaken again by Take One Ltd., to the same outlets.

**Coast Guard Report:**

The coast guard service did not send a representative to the meeting, despite the clerk telephoning to request a representative join the group.

**Any Other Business:**

Roger commented that the grass verges are looking well attended to and thanked the EA for their commitment to Dymchurch.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 15 February, 2017 at 9.30am, DPC offices.**