

**BEACH ADVISORY GROUP**  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

**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.

**Minutes of the Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2016, and matters arising:**

Minutes agreed as a true record and no matters arising.

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

Colin informed there had been an accident reported in January. A lady slipped whilst on the revetments, near High Knocke-end of the village. It would appear that the lady was walking on the revetments and slipped breaking her wrist. EA has responded accordingly and informed the person of the safety measures that have been installed. It would seem that the person was walking in an area that is not hand-rail assisted and no further communication has been received.

**EA Repair Works**

Colin informed all hand-rails are to be replaced with galvanised rails on a rolling programme and non-slip surface has been applied. Cracks in revetments 11-14 will be dealt with in the next few months, when the weather improves.

The Marshlands Basin is to have a pen-stop installed at the end of the outfall to prevent flooding. A pen-stop will also help with flushing and keeping the area clear of silt. The whole operation will be manual and is due to start later in the year.

It has been brought to the council's attention that sand has been placed in the car park area at High Knocke and a bench has been buried in the process. Seb Bishop has copied the council in to his reply to a resident, explaining that the practice of clearing sand is to be brought in-house by the EA and monitoring of sand disposal will be dealt with appropriately in future.

EA will be clearing shingle from the promenade just prior to Easter. This is not a statutory requirement of the EA, but a goodwill gesture. SDC did arrange for clearing of the promenade during the summer season last year, and the Group requested SDC to be asked if this is on their maintenance schedule again for this year.

Cllr. Tillson asked the minutes record appreciation for the ongoing EA maintenance programme that is provided to the seawall.

**Beach and Seawall area:**

Gill informed the well-being equipment is very popular.

The Web-cam, that is live on the council's web-site, is also very popular.

CCTV is to be monitored 24/7 from April and is assisting greatly with safety and security matters in the village. Should the EA have any incidents in the area and require footage to be reviewed, please contact Gill who can make arrangements.

**Memorial and other seating:**

One person has made enquiries about a memorial seat on the seawall near New Beach. Annual repair and renovation works have been arranged and will be carried out on 52 benches and street signs over the next couple of months.

**Seawall and Slipway parking issues:**

There have been no parking issues over the winter months. It was considered that the slipway approach could be block-paved which would enhance the appearance of the area. However, with the likelihood of development at the builder's in the near future, this suggestion should be put on hold until further information is available about development in the area.

**Seawall litter and toilet cleaning issues:**

There were no complaints received at the council office about the cleanliness of the toilets during the summer season. Cllrs. Tillson and Wilkins commented on how clean the toilet block is at central car park.

There were also no complaints made at the parish council office about litter. SDC now provide three collections each day during the height of the season and these have been advantageous compared to the two collections that were once the norm. Two large bins will be placed again at the slipway during the summer season and these bins are well used by the public. It was recognised that there will always be odd occasions when hot days attract an influx of people, that litter will increase, but on the whole the street cleaning service provided by SDC is excellent.

**Summer holiday beach entertainment:**

The parish council will again engage the entertainers and will increase the number of days' entertainment to 4 per week. The entertainers are due to meet with the Asset and Amenities working group sometime in April/May to confirm arrangements.

**Revised Visitor Information Leaflet:**

A few amendments are due to be made to the leaflet and printing needs to take place during March for distribution in April-September.

The clerk has been unable to make contact with Cllr. Redding who designed the leaflet and holds the electronic document. Cllr. Redding also operates the council's Facebook page. Concern was expressed that council should have in place criteria

and policy for the operation of Facebook and council documentation. Cllr. Wilkins offered to visit Cllr. Redding to make enquiries.

**Coast Guard Report:**

No member of the coast guard was present. Clerk has invited the coast guard, and/or representative/volunteer to attend the Beach Advisory Group, but there is no communication forthcoming with the service.

Cllr. Wilkins informed a boat had arrived at Ramsgate with immigrants on board.

**Any Other Business:**

Cllr. Wilkins informed that Camber will have life guards this season. It is understood they will be provided by RNLi and will be funded, for one season only, by Rother District Council. It was suggested that the parish council write to SDC to enquire if any progress has been made with SDC's research into lifeguarding and if a decision has been made regarding lifeguards at key beaches in Shepway.

Meeting closed at 10.30am

Next meeting Wednesday 3 May at 9.30am.

**Recommendation to Dymchurch Parish Council:**

1. That Strategy and planning Working Group be asked to develop a policy for electronic documentation and how the council communicates with Facebook activity.
2. That full council supports a letter be sent to SDC regarding life guards.
3. That at an appropriate time, council considers resurfacing the approach to the beach/slipway at Seawall Road.