

DYMCHURCH BEACH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

27TH JULY 2016

MINUTES

Present:

DPC Cllr. Russell Tillson, Chairman
DPC Cllr. Roger Wilkins
DPC Cllr. Richard Blackwell
Dean Smith, Environment Agency
Colin Demeza, Environment Agency
Seb Bishop, Environment Agency
Richard Kemp, Shepway District Council
Alastair Clifford, Shepway District Council
Gill Smith, Clerk to the parish council

Apologies:

Gill did invite Matt Pavitt from HM Coast Guard, but he did not attend.

Minutes of Meeting 25th May, and matters arising:

Minutes agreed – no matters arising.

Seawall Safety Issues – EA update:

Colin advised that no incidents have been reported and the wall/revetments are continuing to be inspected. Four weeks ago algae was detected but last week the sun had burnt it off. Algae has stayed on the non-slip surface and this will be jet washed on Friday. Jet-washing should keep the non-slip surface free of algae until approximately October time.

Other EA repair works/updates:

Gill informed that revetment No.11 has cracked. Colin and Seb agreed to take a look and repair as required.

Roger informed the grass needing cutting and tidying up. Seb informed this was in hand.

Gill informed that SDC Cllr. Monk had suggested that Dymchurch Parish Council may wish to fund the sweeping of the beach as SDC only pays for its own beaches to be cleaned. DPC to consider Cllr. Monk's letter at its monthly meeting next week. The EA does sweep the shingle from the promenade once a year around Easter time.

Richard Blackwell asked Richard Kemp and Alastair if SDC could give consideration as to what could be done to remove contaminated sand from the seawall as it is a public health issue. Discussion took place regarding dog fouling and how dog ban enforcement continues to be wholly inadequate.

Beach and seawall area renovations / kiosk update:

The kiosk has been removed and a hard standing area has been installed that could accommodate picnic tables and seating.

At a recent DPC meeting councillors considered the possibility of flower beds/planters in the area. EA was of a view this might cause maintenance issues as access to this area is needed for machinery on a regular basis.

Memorial and other seating update:

Roger has been informally approached by the Coker family regarding a memorial bench at the site of the old kiosk in memory of Frank Coker.

Seawall and Slipway parking issues:

Gill informed that parking on the slipway is a constant problem but CCTV with 4 cameras is to be installed shortly at the old beach manager hut. The cameras will be sited to record activity on the slipway, road approaching the slipway and east and west of the promenade. The cameras will also be linked to the DPC web-site so can be viewed via web-cam. The Police at Lydd will hold a key to the hut and a key will be available at the parish council offices should any Authority wish to view or copy any data.

Richard Blackwell enquired who had permission to use the sea wall as many people use it. EA informed it is not in their ownership. Richard also raised unauthorised parking at the disabled bay by the seawall. EA have made it clear in the past, that it has no intention of arranging or paying for enforcement at the site. Disabled persons can park on any yellow lines and therefore the cost of enforcement is considered unnecessary.

Seawall litter bin and toilet cleaning issues:

Roger informed the large litter bins on the slipway are not being emptied 3 times a day, as per SDC's contract with the cleansing contractor. Richard Kemp and Alastair agreed to report this to the appropriate officer at SDC.

There have been no complaints regarding the toilets this season.

Summer Holiday Beach Entertainment:

Tim Shephard has been commissioned to provide beach entertainment for 16 hours each week throughout August. Gill to contact Tim to establish programme of events and marketing.

Community Group Plan:

DPC has a community plan for the village that identifies improvement projects and will apply for funding as and when funding opportunities arise. It was agreed this item can be removed from the agenda for future meetings.

Martello car park skate park facility:

EA has agreed that the area at the top of Martello Tower car park can be used for any community use, subject to proposals being forwarded to the Estates Team for

comment and consideration. It was agreed this item can be removed from future meetings.

Visitor Information leaflet:

DPC has produced a new leaflet this year which is being distributed mainly around the M25 corridor and leisure attractions in Kent.

Day of Syn Weekend:

Activities are planned for the bi-annual event which will take place on 27th, 28th, 29th August. Richard Kemp advised officers at SDC should be notified of the event and provided Gill with contact details.

AOB:

Richard Blackwell enquired if there are any Byelaws regarding the seawall and beach. Gill informed DPC has no byelaws and agreed to research further. Gill enquired if the drain running along the council offices is the responsibility of EA. Seb thought this is likely to be Romney Marsh Internal Drainage Board and provided contact details.

Date of Next Meeting:

Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 26th October, at 9.30am. DPC offices.

Meeting closed at 10.50am