Meeting started 7.10pm - little late as it came after Southern Water’s Drop-in session at GVH.

Present: Cllr Mark Franklin (Chair) Cllr Paul Fuller ( IWC Ward Cllr) Iain Donald (IWC Public Realms ) Helen Ralfs (Public Health Nurse, rep Dipping Soc) Ben Willows (CEO UKSA, rep for Wing Foilers) Laura Moran (Southern Water rep) Robin Leather (Commodore GSC) Cllr Penny Acton (secretary)

Apologies: Senad Adams

Cllr Mark Franklin introduced himself and everyone briefly outlined their role.

Mark outlined agenda items and also referred to paperwork sent out in advance of the meeting.

1. Relevant feedback received from recent GPC survey,
2. Gurnard Pines planning application, and the potential impact that increase in wing-foilers using the public slipway at Gurnard could have on area.
3. New legislation is being introduced to crack down on the dangerous misuse of powered watercraft, with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency being granted more powers to prosecute perpetrators of accidents.

**Agenda Item 1.** *Feedback from IWC on current thoughts about way forward based on reflection from first meeting.*

Iain reported that he’d taken the group’s feedback to his line manager, then explained that IWC has put a hold on all capital projects for 2023. There will be no signage refresh or new buoys installed island wide by IWC in 2023.

Mark asked how IWC is going to respond to the risks & Issues raised by the RNLI report. Iain pointed out that the RNLI report really only highlighted powered water craft as a higher risk and the very recent legislation has changed the situation. However Mark emphasized the foreshore is IWC responsibility, having no budget is not a reason to ignore risks as any incident could cost IWC much more than mitigating the risks. Anecdotally there are an increasing number of near misses. Risks need to be mitigated in some way but general group agreement that segregation is not the answer

**ACTION POINT**  **Mark** Recommendation/Request that GPC write to IWC to ask:-

*“in light of the recent proposed freeze on capital budgets for 2023-2024 season and the impact  this will potentially have regarding the review and implementation of safety enhancements at the Gurnard Foreshore for the 2023 season. Please can the IWC inform GPC what actions they plan to take before the start of the 2023 season to address the issues and risks raised in the 2021 RNLI Beach Safety Assessment Report,  given that the report was issued to the IWC 18 months ago and the number of “ near misses” at Gurnard is on the increase, the feeling of the GPC Beach working group is its only a matter of time before there in a serious incident at this location.”*

Discussion about **how incidents might be recorded and how they should be reported as unless there is evidence of a problem … there is no problem!** Signage is key to inform users how to report incidents, Iain explained how Environment Officers work and what they might be expected to do: high season weekly visits/ monthly in low season. He suggested that Gurnard might be the sort of place where a sort of Beach Neighbourhood watch group could work.

**ACTION POINT** **Paul** will talk with Colin Rowland to try and get greater clarity about Environment Officers roles in light of parish councils’ part in financing them.

**Agenda item 4 *-****taken out of order as discussion followed from first item*.*New signage proposals – to include new legislation requirements*

Query whether parish council could undertake signage. Mark pointed out it is IWC not GPC who are responsible for beach safety signage. Iain suggested that contacting a representative from Coastal Management (Natasha Dix) and Environment Agency could be useful. **POSS ACTION POINT** - Penny

Robin asked whether signage could be locally funded and whether the designs which are already done for IWC could be shared. **Important that signage about where to report breaches or near misses is clear. Important to remember how vital reporting is** – without evidence it never happened. Iain stated a lot of the designed signage is supposed to be seen/read from both sides so there is possibility that the reverse side could be used for additional information.

**ACTION POINT** **Iain** to check on obtaining draft artwork for the signs to share with the group

**ACTION POINT** **Paul** to have a discussion with Marine Police. Find out what is best practice for reporting. Request more visibility with visits being made when possible.

Discussion about whether QR code might make reporting easier as most people have a phone. Felt this could easily be setup although with some caveats about need for some form of filtering . Main feeling is that no-one wants problems or segregation and there is no way to enforce segregation anyway but the importance of acknowledging the needs of other users in a shared space is vital. How to get that message across?

**ACTION POINT** **Agenda item for next meeting.**  Definite proposal(s) should be produced by the group regarding signage, perhaps locally funded, and given to GPC for consideration as signage is needed sooner rather than later.

**Agenda item 2.** *Feedback from the Parish Precept consultation on the relevant section in questionnaire*

Feedback from the relevant section of the Parish Precept Consultation had been distributed in advance of the meeting. Mark summed up by stating that the water quality issue came out as a high priority on the majority of responses (over 80%). Comments generally reflected BSWP approach to buoys with most not in favour .

**Agenda item 3** *Update from Laura Moran about what SW are doing to improve water quality and how the community can assist*.

Laura (SW Clean Rivers and Seas Programme) reported on various schemes that have been undertaken by SW . Her ‘Plan on a Page’ summary is attached.

Discussion about what community can do. Remember things like Astro Turf increases run-off just as hard impermeable driveways and ‘urban creep’ do! *GVH SuDS Planter example at end of notes.*

Ben queried progress on an automated monitoring buoy off Hayling Island. Laura confirmed that this technology is very new but if successful will provide live up-dates on water quality and if successful then consideration to locate one at Gurnard/ Cowes may be possible.

Robin asked about drainage from GSC and queried the possibility of collecting run-off rainwater so it could be used for rinsing off boats etc.

Mark queried GPC involvement with Fluidion Tests and Ben offered the possibility of collaborating with UKSA. The test kit is intended for use as part of UKSA’s education programme but no reason why sampling shouldn’t take place at Gurnard. A full analysis can take up to 16 hours from a kit sample, a high E-coli count will show up in about 2 hours. Aim to test regularly.

Mark stated that there is a lot of good news in what Laura has told us. How do we disseminate to the community? Ben queried how MacQuarrie will help disseminate/educate? What is needed is not a detailed , slick slide presentation but the KEY messages widely disseminated and followed up.

**Date for next meeting:**

1st March. Venue will be the Portland Inn.

Apologies given by Cllr Acton.



**Addendum**

Extract from an SW email about Gurnard Village Hall.

1. The village hall has a roof area of approximately 200m2.
2. A relatively modest 5mm rainfall event will result in 1 tonne (1m3) of water rushing through the downpipes into our sewer – overwhelming it.
3. Roofs like this are a big contributor to sewer flooding and pollution hence why we want to work with people to manage the flow.

Two SuDS planters were installed at GVH on 10th February and this installation will be advertised to help promote community involvement with the Pathfinder Programme.