

Beach Safety Working Party Meeting 1 st March 2023

Meeting started 7.00pm - Portland Inn Gurnard

Present: Cllr Mark Franklin (Chair) Cllr Paul Fuller, Iain Donald, Helen Ralfs, Ben Willows
Robin Leather, Mike Rainey.

Apologies: Senad Adams, Laura Moran ,Cllr Penny Acton

review of action points from last meeting

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."

**Update, GPC agreed that Paul Fuller would write to IWC for clarification as above. Iain said that the IOW slipways risk assessment is to be updated.

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.

**Update ongoing

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

**Closed Iain send out by email the current draft Artwork that has been produced by IWC

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.

**Update contacted police and awaiting feedback.

ACTION POINT Mark Discussion about whether QR code might make reporting easier as most

**Closed, Mark will produce a QR code to link to reporting once the reporting process has been agreed. GSC to set up a log book for members in the GSC bar area.

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.

** Update, GSC showed drafts of posters to be displayed in clubhouse, public posters need to be drafted, BEN agreed to produce a draft.

Meeting notes:-

In absence of Southern Water Ben gave an update following his recent meeting with Southern Water, Southern Water have agreed to loan a water test machine worth £25k but a safe location for it to be stored and used needs to be identified.

Action Point all:- who will perform the testing needs to be agreed as does the frequency of Testing, Sandown performs similar testing on a daily basis as it was felt this would be appropriate for Gurnard/Cowes testing.

The Automated water quality monitoring buoy in Chichester area is giving good results and SW agreed next deployment could be in Gurnard but will need MMO License to locate the buoy which could delay its deployment to June/ July this year, Iain said it might be possible to tag this request onto the existing IWC MMO license for seasonal Buoyage.

ACTION POINT Iain to investigate if it is possible to tag this onto the existing licence

Current Water Butt deployment in Gurnard is poor with only a 40% takeup so far, but poor comms to residents so feedback to SW that better comms is needed to win the hearts and minds of residents to install a slow release butt or to convert existing ones to slow release.

Iain explained that the IWC proposed standard for signage would cost £3-4k, the group felt this was expensive and asked people to come up with thoughts for more cost effective solutions for discussion at the next meeting.

Mike Rainey gave an overview on the work that the Solent Protection group is undertaking regarding monitoring water quality in open water away from the beach and also that they are challenging SW on the accuracy of their tidal models, Shellfish areas are no1 priority and due to existing monitoring the Solent is an easy quick win to use as a pathfinder project and a push is being made to put one in place to cover Southampton water and the eastern Solent etc.

It was agreed that a reliable source of Rainfall in Gurnard is required to correlate the testing and overflow events, it was suggested that Chris Tibbs might be able to help or know someone who could.

Date for next meeting:

Thursday, 5th April, The Pavilion, Gurnard Pines from 7-9pm.

Apologies given by Cllr Franklin

Draft agenda for next meeting:-

1. Update on Gurnard Pathfinder project from SW
2. Review of water testing equipment deployment
 - agree where this can be located
 - who will perform testing
 - Frequency of testing
3. Next steps re deployment of Water testing buoy inc MMO license submission, timescales etc.
4. Review of draft signage proposals
5. AOB