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Website - [http:// poolebeachhuts.co.uk](http://poolebeachhuts.co.uk)

Notes of Public Meeting held on 10.10.18. 7pm St Aldhelms Church Hall.

Question papers were circulated prior to commencement of the meeting.

Present.

Committee Members = Bob Lister (BL), Jack Crewe, Julie Snow, Val Arbon, Janet Coy, Yvette Bessant, Cheryl Atterton,

Committee Apologies. Lyn Thomas, Yvonne Hartwell.

30 members of the public signed the attendance register.

The evening began with a welcome by the Chairman, Bob Lister, followed by **introductions of attending Borough of Poole Management (Jacqueline Wood (Beach Hut Manager), Andrew Brown (Operations Manager) (AB), Councillor John Challoner (Portfolio Holder for the Seafront).**

A short speech was given by BL which included,

- Thanks to members of the PBHA committee.
- Thanks to Jack Crewe for his work as Treasurer. Standing down from this role. Vacancy now on the Committee. BL requested a volunteer for this role.
- BL commented on the new Beach Team. There was much to be pleased about.
- Challenging financial times. Beach hut rents increasing. Local Government review. Aim to make improvements to resources and facilities. Comparisons with Bournemouth and Christchurch.
- Waiting list myths.

BL then introduced Jacqueline Wood, newly appointed Beach Hut Manager.

Jacqueline Wood (Beach Hut Manager) JW outlined her background (Leisure and Tourism). Beach Hut Manager= a new role for the Local Authority. JW will provide a point of contact for Beach Hut users. Will cover Bournemouth and Poole. JW will seek to streamline processes across both authorities, and maximise the potential of the seafront. JW stressed value of contact through e-mail: Jacqueline.Wood@Bournemouth.gov.uk

Andrew Brown. (Operations Manager) Major role, covers 11.5 miles of seafront. 6 million visitors a year + residents. AB outlined his responsibilities and the challenges being faced as Bournemouth and Poole merge to one authority from April 2019. There was much to streamline and review. However, a number of ongoing improvement projects,

- Shore Road. Currently `live`.
- Canford Cliffs. Cliff slippage was impacting on development.
- Branksome. Chine, Currently consulting on improvements but recognition that the toilets were a major concern.
- e-mail: Andrew.Brown2@Bournemouth.gov.uk

John Challoner. Councillor for Parkstone. Portfolio Holder for Seafront. Currently oversight of council work is being undertaken by a `shadow Council`. This ceases in April 2019 as Bmth, Christchurch and Poole merge into one Authority. Christchurch Council Tax is higher than Bmth and Poole. Expectation that there will be increases in rents for Bmth and Poole (steady and small) over next 6 years to match those of Christchurch. Increased rents re .Beach Huts is needed to maximise resources due to increased pressure on local social care needs. This was alongside significant central government cuts. Policies relating to Beach Huts will be reviewed from April 2019 onwards. JC spoke about the local government elections in May 2019 where there would be a major reduction in ward councillors. Email: j.challinor@poole.gov.uk

BL thanked the speakers and read out the prepared questions from those attending. Questions. These are summarised as follows.

- Drains at Branksome Dene Chine. Water overflowing onto the prom. AB responded that drainage arrangements at Bournemouth and Poole were different. Poole drainage more concerning and being investigated.
- What is happening re. rental costs when Bmth and Poole merge? Concern from public that Beach Huts seen as a `cash cow` /money making exercise. Response = rents will need to increase. Need to raise money for cost pressures on the authority.
- Was there a potential refund to users when Beach huts were out of use during refurb? AB responded = Annual tenancy terms and conditions state that work can be undertaken up to 4 weeks without refund. Basic policy is that, if you physically can't get to your Beach hut, and then a refund likely (Air Show etc.) but this does not apply during refurb.
- What has happened to the `early morning patrol`? (Shore Road) Previously, there was a beach attendant who would check the beach early each morning for litter, debris etc. This no longer seems to be the case. AB noted this.
- Is there a `Drone policy`? AB recognised the concern but responded that the Beach Rangers had no authority over any in-appropriate drone use. Guidelines came from the Civil Aviation Authority but essentially this was a Police matter.
- Was there likely to be a refurb of the Beach huts to the right of Branksome Beach Café? AB responded that nothing planned at present, but a full review of all beachfront property etc. was planned which would provide a management programme for ongoing maintenance and refurb. needs.
- Branksome Dene steps. Significant concern about maintenance of the steps down the Chine to the Beach. Very slippery and dangerous, particularly after rainfall. Who was responsible for maintenance? AB noted the concern and would investigate.
- Branksome Dene toilets. Why are these closed from 1st October? AB responded that the current cleaning contract prevented flexibility, but this contract was under review.
- Toilets at Flaghead. Could these be kept open? AB responded that this would be reviewed under any new cleaning contract.
- Seafront lighting. Were there likely to be any improvements? AB responded this was unlikely due to significant cost.
- Cycling. Significant concern to many beach hut users. Why were cyclists not challenged by the Beach Team when cyclists were ignoring the signage on restricted cycling? Unlike in previous years, the barriers were rarely evident. AB responded that he was not prepared to put his staff at risk by asking them to physically challenge cyclists. Had to work in partnership with the Police.
- Safe swim/bathing areas. Concern that these weren't always safe from boats and jet skis etc. AB responded that the beach team had no jurisdiction. Had to work in partnership with the Police.
- Dogs. No changes expected in current policy.
- Sandbanks Polo. Who cleans up? Who is responsible? State of beach after the Polo was concerning to many. AB responded that this should improve when the `Events Team` was being managed jointly across both Bmth and Poole.
- BBQ`s. No clarity about usage. Improved signage would help. AB responded that a common policy would be formulated across Bmth and Poole.

Comment. Member of the public commented that, whilst he accepted that the Beach Huts were an important source of funding, and that helped address cost pressures on the Local Authority, he felt that users were entitled to a basic level of service for the high rents they paid (toilets, running water, cleanliness etc.). This was universally agreed by those present.

BL brought the meeting to a close and thanked everyone for their participation.

Meeting closed. 9.15pm.