

**Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline (SCOPAC) held in Hurstwood Room, Public Service Plaza, Civic Centre Road, Havant, Hampshire PO9 2AX on 19 January 2018 commencing at 10.00 am**

Present: A list of those present is appended to these minutes

**67 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Harris, Councillor John Connor, Councillor Colin Bungey, Councillor Graham Burgess, Councillor Ingeborg Forder, Councillor David Smith, Angela Marlow, Jonathan Potts, Dominic Henly, Gordon Wilkinson, Uwe Dornbusch, Tim Adams and Stevyn Ricketts.

**68 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Paper A)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SCOPAC meeting held on 6 October 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**69 Update on National Issues - Neil Watson (Presentation)**

The Group received a presentation from the Chairman of the SCG, detailing the latest national updates. The following points were highlighted:

- Coastal Group Terms of Reference Update – An update had been undertaken to refresh the terms of reference for Coastal Groups. The refresh included key aims such as reviewing the governance and membership of Coastal Groups, investigating further avenues of collaboration and exploring opportunities for efficiencies.
- Shoreline Management Plan Refresh – Work to update the SMPs in the SCOPAC region was on-going, to ensure they remained fit for purpose.
- DEFRA Coastal Adaptation Project – There were no clear funding sources for issues relating to coastal adaptation, and the project aimed to highlight the scale of the national problem.
- Asset Maintenance – Following the removal of grant revenue, there was pressure on capital programmes for support in the maintenance of failing coastal assets. Proactive investment was needed to avoid instances of failing assets becoming dangerous and requiring costly short-term repairs.
- Delivery of the 6-Year Capital Programme – Work was continuing to ensure the Programme remained on target. A presentation on the progress of the capital programme would be delivered at a future SCOPAC meeting.

- National Coastal Monitoring Programme – The Programme had proved an invaluable resource in providing data for analysis and informing decision making.
- Coastal Asset Data – Laser scans were being compiled to form a database for use in assessing coastal asset infrastructure.
- Landfill Sites at risk from Flooding and Erosion – There were no clear funding streams for dealing with the issue.
- Skills and capacity – There were concerns that the expertise and resource present to aid the delivery of schemes was reducing.
- Habitat Creation – The Environment Agency had a duty to forward habitat creation in areas of coastal squeeze, due to the rising water levels. An example of this in the SCOPAC region is The Moors at Arne Project.

Members commented on the importance of communications to the public on SCOPAC projects, ensuring that work in the region was being publicised effectively.

## **70 Research Programme - Samantha Cope (Paper B)**

The Chairman of the Research Sub-Group delivered an overview of the current research programme, providing an update on the progress of research.

The Group were informed that the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership and the Environment Agency had been successful in securing local levy funding from the Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee and the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee to cover the costs of the SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study. The £25,000 costs would be reallocated to the 'Storm Analysis' study, with the aim of providing further data and analysis of storm events in recent years.

The update included the following details:

- Beach response in front of structures in open coast – Scour monitors deployed in Stokes Bay, Gosport and Southsea, Portsmouth, had recorded beach level change during recent storm events. Early findings had shown minimal exposure in Stokes Bay, which contrasted with a drop of 1.7 metres at Southsea since March 2017.
- 2018 – 2020 Minor Projects – An email had been circulated to the Group calling for any potential research projects to receive SCOPAC contributions in 2018/19 and 2019/20. A decision on the chosen projects would be made at the Southern Coastal Group meeting in March.
- Monitoring of Poole Nearshore Replenishment Trials – The final report from the study would be uploaded to the SCOPAC website when approved.
- Scanning of Historical Aerial Photography – Phase 2 of the study was on-going.

- Bournemouth Borough Council: Dismantling of Timber Groynes – The findings of the study would be presented at a future SCOPAC meeting.
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management Manual – The steering group for the project was scheduled to meet in March 2018, with Peter Ferguson attending as the SCOPAC representative.
- SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study – The study had highlighted the lack of funding sources for capital works to protect contaminated land sites from flood and coastal erosion risk. The issue had been flagged at a national level.
- Vegetated Shingle Study – The study had been established to investigate the response of vegetated shingle species to beach management activities and storm events at Hurst Spit. Early findings had shown that these activities had promoted regeneration and growth in vegetated shingle.

## **71 Bradbury's Bursary - Presentations from Lauren Burt and Emma Harris**

The Chairman invited Lauren Burt and Emma Harris to deliver presentation to the Group on the progress of studies awarded the Bradbury's Bursary.

Lauren Burt had been awarded the Bursary in 2016/17 and conducted a study into the migration of gravel barriers over a consolidating substrate and the implications for coastal management, using Hurst Spit as a case study.

The presentation detailed the scope of the research, the methodology for undertaking the necessary testing and the key findings of the study. The method used for the study could be replicated at other sites and would provide data on sediment consolidation.

Emma Harris had been awarded the Bursary in 2017/18 and had conducted a study into the recent morphological evolution of Pagham Harbour entrance and the cause of the breach to Church Norton Spit in winter 2016.

The presentation detailed the importance of the research, the methodology used to conduct the study and the key findings. Results had shown that the effects of the storms in the winter of 2013/14 had triggered subsequent breaches in the following years. It was highlighted that these results would help inform future work, while the study also evidenced the value of data provided by the Regional Monitoring Programme.

The Chairman thanked Lauren and Emma for their interesting presentations.

## **72 Budget Update - Lyall Cairns (Paper C)**

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to provide a budget update to the Group.

An updated version of the papers was tabled for members.

The papers showed that the SCOPAC budget remained on track. The papers also provided a breakdown of income and expenditure for the Group, though the returned funds from the SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study had not yet been received and factored into the accounts.

Members highlighted the need for improved communications and the need to engage communities through further use of the SCOPAC website and social media.

### **73 Feedback from Members**

The Chairman invited members to provide the Group with any updates from their respective authorities and organisations.

The following points were raised during the discussion;

- Eastleigh Borough Council were experiencing erosion issues at Hamble Point, which were impacting upon local infrastructure and points of interest.
- Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership – The Partnership was forwarding a number of projects, including works at Southsea, North Portsea, Langstone, Forton, Seafield and Alverstoke. These projects focused on ‘place making’ concerns as well as flood and erosion defences.

Members emphasised the importance of collaborative working between the authorities and organisations subscribed to SCOPAC.

### **74 Dates of Future Meetings and Field Visit**

Details on the SCOPAC Site Visit and next meeting would be circulated to members.

**The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.50 am**

## STANDING CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

### 19 JANUARY 2018 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Councillor Mary Penfold – Chairman of SCOPAC  
Neil Watson – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Cllr Alan Alvey, New Forest District Council  
Richard Austin, Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
Councillor Jackie Branson, Chichester Harbour Conservancy  
Mr Lyall Cairns, Havant Borough Council  
Dr Samantha Cope, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership  
Councillor Malcolm Cross, Eastleigh Borough Council  
Councillor Keith Evans, Fareham Borough Council  
Nick Gray, Environment Agency  
Dr David Harlow, Bournemouth Borough Council  
Councillor John Hobart, Isle of Wight Council  
Honorary Freeman Cllr John Lofts, Christchurch Borough Council  
Mr David Robson, Poole Borough Council  
Mr Neil Watson, Environment Agency

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