

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Guildhall, Portsmouth on Friday 21 January 2011, commencing at 10.15am

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

<u>Apologies:</u> Bryan Curtis	-	Adur and Worthing Borough Councils
Phillipa Dart	-	Arun District Council
Cllr M Filer	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr Connor	-	Chichester District Council
Cllr A Buckley	-	Chichester Harbour Conservancy
Steve Woolard	-	Christchurch Borough Council
Graham Lymbery	-	Coastal Defence Sefton MBC
Dr K Buchan	-	Dorset County Council
Alun Brown	-	Eastleigh Borough Council
Scott Mills	-	Fareham Borough Council
Cllr S Dyer	-	Isle of Wight Council
Mike Goater	-	Purbeck District Council
Samantha Dawes	-	R.S.P.B.
John Riby	-	Scarborough Borough Council
Karen McHugh	-	Solent Forum

1. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 23 September 2010 be approved.

2. Report of the Chair of the Research Programme

The Group received a report from the Chairperson of the Research Sub-Group setting out progress made on the following current and proposed SCOPAC projects:

2.1) ACCESS' (Adapting to Climate Change Along England's Southern Shorelines')

Members were advised that the case studies had been drafted and were to be circulated to officers shortly for comment. Various issues regarding the use of address point data sets and the guidance on valuing properties were discussed and it was noted that a final report was due to be published in spring 2011, supported by a workshop for planners, councillors', officers and consultants.

2.2) Sediment Tracer Studies East Solent

Members were pleased to note that the Selsey West Beach Shingle Tracer Study Project being led by Cllr R O'Brien of Chichester District Council had recently been awarded a grant to conduct a project at Selsey Bill.

2.3) CIRIA Beach Management Manual Launch

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group provided members with an update on the recent launch of the CIRIA Beach Management Manual. It was explained that SCOPAC had contributed to the manual and it was expected to be a key

document for engineers regarding beach management. In response to a query over problems downloading the manual Sam Cope agreed to investigate and provide an update.

2.4) New Research

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

3. Report of the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group

The Group received a report from the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group setting out recent developments and progress made on the following subjects:

3.1) National Network of Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programmes (2011 – 2017)

Financial approval of the programme was expected to be received shortly and despite recent funding cuts the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group was optimistic that they would be able to deliver the majority of the planned programme without significant impact.

3.2) Funding for Assessment of Coastal Erosion and Landsliding for Application of Guidance Notes

3.3) Training Events

Members were encouraged by the positive feedback received from attendees at the recent Rock Groyne workshop. The workshop was part of a new initiative to include a technical training element into the programme and target individuals who were new to the industry.

A member/officer field trip similar to last years visit to Hengistbury Head was planned for Portsmouth in May or June and members were updated on the various costs involved. Members approved the proposal and agreed that an early morning visit to the Spinnaker Tower at high tide would provide a unique perspective of the flooding, conservation and planning problems facing Old Portsmouth.

In response to a members question regarding attendance of outside groups it was felt that it was important to promote the event and encourage planning officers and members related to planning to attend and participate in the visit.

3.4) Annual Report

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group introduced the annual report and highlighted the importance of the table 'Annual Value of Coastal Group Activities to Partner Organisations'. The table demonstrated SCOPAC and Southern Coastal Group activities and how these were able to provide organisations with value for money through joint working on an integrated basis.

The research programme in the report was also highlighted as it suggested that SCOPAC members could collectively benefit from any project outcomes which could be used in support of coastal schemes and SMPs.

In response to a question over whether local authority cabinet members were aware of the benefits of SCOPAC membership the Chairman indicated that at present this was not always the case. Members were invited to forward on any cabinet member names and addresses and the Chairman would write to them to promote SCOPAC's work and highlight the benefits of membership.

3.5) SMP Progress

Gary Lane of the Environment Agency provided an update on SMP progress and it was confirmed that all SMP's in the SCOPAC region had now been completed.

3.6) Website

Sam Cope provided an overview of the recently updated Southern Coastal Group and SCOPAC websites and explained several of the new features that were now available. Members were pleased to note the upgrades made and remarked that it was a significant improvement. Sarah Austin of Vivid Websites was thanked for all her hard work and efficiency in re-designing both websites.

3.7) DEFRA / EA Consultations

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group urged members to read the DEFRA / EA consultations as they detailed the large changes to the way coastal protection would be funded in the future. A new method of calculation had been introduced which meant more schemes were eligible for funding but not necessarily 100% funding. Further information was expected shortly, after which the Southern Coastal Group would prepare a coordinated response, although if local authorities were reliant on large amounts of grant aid they were urged to also provide an individual response.

3.8) Upcoming Events

RESOLVED That

- 1) The report be noted;
- 2) The annual report for the Southern Coastal Group and for the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline be approved.

4. Update on LGA SIG

The Chairman provided an update on the recent LGA SIG meeting held on 23 December 2010. The meeting focused on management of landfill in coastal erosion areas and of coastal change resilience and risk planning. The information was available to view on the LGA SIG website along with a presentation from the Marine Policy Unit on licensing issues with offshore wind farms. The Chairman advised members that Richard Benyon M.P. had attended the meeting and highlighted the possibility of inviting him to a future SCOPAC event. It was also announced that an annual field visit hosted by Suffolk District Council was scheduled for 7-9 June 2011.

5. Funding and Allocation Procedure

Tim Kermode of the Environment Agency reported on the substantial cuts in capital expenditure experienced by Defra and the effects this would have on the allocation of funds locally. A document detailing the funding and allocation process had been submitted to the Southern Coastal Group previously and Tim Kermode agreed to circulate it to any interested members.

6. Any Other Business

Nick Hardiman of the Environment Agency reported on a recent scheme piloted at Scarborough Borough Council where the Environment Agency had worked in unison with the council to prepare a short document on their SMP. The document was produced to provide an overview of what exactly an SMP was, what the key issues were and what policies were in place. Members noted that the document had been very well received and it was now hoped to roll out the scheme nationwide.

Nick Hardiman also updated members on NCERM and confirmed that ministerial approval had been received to proceed with the project. A Project Board meeting was scheduled for February 2011 after which the project was expected to be released later in the year.

9. Suggested Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED That the next meeting of the Standing Conference on problems Associated with the Coastline be held on Thursday 17 March 2011, commencing at 10:15am.

10. Presentation – Assessment of Coastal Process Impacts of the Boscombe Surf Reef

SCOPAC members received a presentation on ‘Assessment of Coastal Process Impacts of the Boscombe Surf Reef’ by Professor Andy Bradbury of New Forest District Council. Members were interested to note the coastal impact investigations and monitoring of the reef that had been undertaken and the recommendations that had emerged from the study. Professor Andy Bradbury then answered member’s questions on the project.

RESOLVED That Professor Andy Bradbury be thanked for providing an interesting and informative presentation.

The meeting commenced at 10.20am and concluded at 12.35pm.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 17 March 2011

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

21 JANUARY 2011 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Roger Elkins – Chairman of SCOPAC

Professor Andy Bradbury – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr D Harlow
Cllr R Lawton

Havant and Portsmouth and Gosport
Councils Coastal Partnership
Mr L Cairns

Chichester District Council
Cllr R O'Brien
Mr G Holder

Isle of Wight Council
Mr J Jaueways
Mr P Marsden

Christchurch and East Dorset Council
Partnership
Cllr M Duckworth
Mr L Cass

New Forest District Council
Cllr F Carpenter
Dr Sam Cope

Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr D Airey

Solent Protection Society
Mr A Inder

Environment Agency
Mr N Hardiman
Mr T Kermod
Dr U Dornbusch
Mr G Lane

Southampton City Council
Cllr M Jones
Ms B Maguire

Gosport Borough Council
Cllr D Kimber

Southern RFDC
Dr M Bateman

Hampshire County Council
Mr S Blyth

University of Portsmouth
Dr M Bray

Havant Borough Council
Cllr J Wride

West Dorset District Council
Mr B Murray

Westminster Dredging
Mr B White