

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 12 October 2018 commencing at 10.00 am

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

75 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Steve Leggett, Councillor Peter Webb, Councillor Keith Evans, Councillor Kevin Jenkins, Councillor Alan Alvey, Councillor Jackie Branson, Councillor David Smith, Councillor John Rampton, Neil Watson, Uwe Dornbusch, Nick Gray, Neil Pettefer, Stevyn Ricketts, Bridget Betts, Peter Ferguson, Matthew Penny, Steve Cook, Angela Marlow and Stuart McVey.

76 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Paper A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the SCOPAC meeting held on 19 January 2018 be approved as a correct record.

77 Southern Coastal Group “Hot Topics” to SCOPAC (Neil Watson)

The Chairman invited Lyall Cairns to provide a presentation to the Group, detailing the latest national updates and ‘hot topics’ for consideration.

Lyall informed the Group that he had recently been appointed as Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group, with Neil Watson and Matt Hosey appointed as Vice-Chairman to the Group and Samantha Cope appointed as Chairman of the Research Sub-Group.

The following points were highlighted:

- Profile of Coastal Issues on National Agenda – Environment Agency officers had reported that the profile of coastal issues had been raised on the national agenda in recent months, with factors such as increased coverage of climate change and recent conferences impacting upon this. There was also recognition of the continuing financial pressures on the sector.
- Coastal Schemes in the Capital Investment Programme to April 2021 – There was a forecasted £1.2 billion worth of investment into coastal erosion and sea flooding projects, which represent 50% of the overall Flood and Erosion 6 Year Programme.
- Coastal Landfill Sites at Risk from Flooding and Erosion – SCOPAC had taken a leading role in researching and highlighting the issue on a national scale. There had been media interest in the issue, while legal perspectives were being sought on the ramifications and liabilities for local authorities.

- Compensatory Habitat Review – Proactive work had been undertaken to identify habitat losses in the Solent and South Downs area, and inform future development. A presentation would be provided to SCOPAC on the findings of the review.

It was highlighted that there was a need for strong officer support in promoting the key messages of the Group and encouraging attendance to SCOPAC meetings from all members.

78 Research Update (Sam 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 projects.

The main changes to the research programme were as follows:

- The Low Height Seawalls project had been removed due to changing priorities and financial pressures.
- The Ebb Deltas Study had been deferred to the 2020/21 financial year due to financial pressures.

The Research Sub-Group would be calling for further research projects during winter 2018/19, to inform the next research programme.

The update included the following details:

- Digitising Poole Harbour Tide Gauge Record – The project was aimed to digitise records dating back to 1927, which would become the longest digital sea-level record for the SCOPAC region. The results would be presented at a future SCOPAC meeting.
- Langstone Harbour Entrance Coastal Process Study – 500 pebbles had been collected, drilled and tagged, with monitoring due to commence in Spring 2019. The outcomes of the study will help inform future management of the Eastney Spit. Examples of the pebbles would be presented at the next SCOPAC meeting, along with an update on the progress of the study.
- Scanning of Historical Aerial Photography – Following the retirement of Dr David Harlow, Alex Hillawi had overtaken organisation of the project and would be liaising with local authorities to arrange for the scanning of aerial photographs where possible.
- Bournemouth Borough Council: Dismantling of Timber Groynes – Following the retirement of Dr David Harlow, consultants were continuing their work on this project. 3 out of 5 types of wood had been assessed, with the other 2 types due to be assessed over Winter 2018/19. A presentation on the findings would be given at a future SCOPAC meeting.
- CIRIA Groynes in Coastal Management Manual – The Steering Group were thankful for the work prepared by Dr Andy Bradbury, which had been useful in preparing the manual. Peter Ferguson would provide an update at the next SCOPAC meeting.

- SCOPAC Contaminated Land Study – The study had achieved successful funding bids from the Wessex and Southern RFCC's, and was aimed at raising the issue on a national scale. A presentation on the study would be provided at a future SCOPAC meeting.
- Vegetated Shingle Study – The initial observations had noted that beach management activities and storm events had been beneficial for seed dispersal and growth. A presentation on the study would be provided at the next SCOPAC meeting.
- SCOPAC Storm Analysis Study – The study aimed to combine sea level, surge and wave buoy data to help better understand the impact of recent storm events in the SCOPAC region, with the outcome of producing infographics and statistics to provide detail and context for these events.
- Preston Tracer Study – 600 pebbles had been collected in preparation for the study, which would be co-ordinated in parallel with the Langstone Harbour Entrance Coastal Process Study.
- Bradbury's Bursary – The Bursary had unfortunately not be awarded this year as the nominated projects did not meet the qualifying criteria. Assessment timescales would be amended in future years to ensure the student pool could be extended if needed.
- Poole Nearshore Replenishment Trials – Results from the study had been loaded onto the SCOPAC website.

Members highlighted the importance of reporting back to their individual authorities to raise the profile and underline the breadth of research undertaken under the SCOPAC programme.

79 'Scour Project' Presentation (Andrew Pearce)

The Chairman invited Andrew Pearce to provide a presentation to the Group on the 'Scour Project', which received a minor contribution of £4,000 from SCOPAC.

The project had been undertaken to investigate the effects of lowering beach levels and toe scour at the foot of coastal structure foundations, as this is understood to have an impact on failing assets. The study installed scour chains at Stokes Bay, Gosport, and Memorial Beach, Southsea, to monitor any change in beach levels.

Despite a lack of storm events, results had shown a fall in beach level at both locations. The chains at Stokes Bay had shown a small fall in beach level with materials being swept under the structure, while Memorial Beach had experienced a drop of 1.3 metres in beach level and chains at this location had been damaged.

These results confirmed toe scour at these locations, and it was hoped improved technology could develop the study further in future years. The study also highlighted the importance of asset management on coastal frontages.

Members commented on the importance of the study in helping develop understanding for maintenance and proactive repairing of coastal structures.

The Chairman thanked Andrew for his interesting and informative presentation.

80 Coastal Monitoring (Charlie Thompson - Paper C)

The Chairman invited Charlie Thompson of the Channel Coast Observatory to provide an update to the Group on the progress of the Southeast Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

The Group were encouraged to promote the use of Coastal Monitoring data, and to record when this data had been used within a project to continue highlighting the importance of the Programme.

Members commented that it would be useful for a link to futurecoast to be included on the SCOPAC website. It would also be useful for the use of Coastal Monitoring data to be added as a column on the SCG Programme Management Tool.

81 National FCERM Strategy Update (Mark Stratton - Paper D)

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to provide the Group with an update on the progress of the National FCERM Strategy.

The update provided the latest progress of the work undertaken on the strategy following recent workshops, including the core questions at the heart of the update, the guiding principles for all workstreams contributing to the strategy and the key topics that have been promoted from a coastal perspective.

The draft strategy was due to go out to consultation in January 2019 for an 8-week period, and this would be circulated to SCOPAC members. Members were also encouraged to view the draft strategy online.

82 Programme Management Tool (Mark Stratton)

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to introduce the Programme Management Tool to the Group.

The Tool provided an overview of projects in the SCOPAC region, allowing for linkages between projects and efficiencies to be easily identifiable. The Tool also enabled quick assessment of a number of elements across all projects, such as scheme type, materials used and project status.

The Tool had already shown its potential for achieving efficiencies, as projects in Gosport were able to procure as a single package and led to £264,000 of initial savings.

Members commented on the importance of the Tool, and in particular highlighted the potential for joint procurement opportunities. It was requested that the slides be circulated to all members, to encourage regular contributions to the Tool from member authorities.

83 SCOPAC Promotional Brochure Progress (Mark Stratton)

The Chairman invited Mark Stratton to update the Group on the progress of the SCOPAC Promotional Brochure.

In order to further raise the profile of the work undertaken in the SCOPAC region, a short promotional brochure was being prepared to highlight the achievements, benefits and pressures faced by the Group. The brochure would feature accessible infographics and statistics to appeal to a range of audiences.

The brochure would be ready for distribution in early 2019 and members were encouraged to circulate as widely as possible when published.

84 SCG/SCOPAC Business Action Plan (Lyll Cairns - Paper E)

The Chairman invited Lyll Cairns to update the Group on the SCG / SCOPAC Business Action Plan.

The Plan aimed to provide a professional and transparent approach to the work of the Group, dividing activities into key themes and detailing important information such as progress status, lead officer and allocated resource.

The Plan highlighted the key SCOPAC priority of continued Coastal Research and Monitoring, while also stressing the resource pressures on certain activities.

Members endorsed the current Plan and noted that other Coastal Group officers had commented positively on the business-like approach.

85 SCG/SCOPAC Finance Update (Lyll Cairns - Paper F)

The Chairman of the SCG provided an update for the finances of the SCG and SCOPAC.

The report detailed the current financial position for both the SCG and SCOPAC, and the predicted financial position for 2019/20. The paper also highlighted the need for tight monitoring in future years to maintain a positive position, while also specifying the associated risks.

The Group held a discussion on future funding, with questions raised on the possibility of raising subscription fees. A number of mechanisms were debated for future fees, such as an incremental percentage increase alongside staff wage increases or a fee calculated by length of coastline.

The consensus however was to keep fees at their current levels, and focus on raising the profile of SCOPAC and emphasising its benefits to partner authorities and organisations, with the possibility of raising fees in future years.

Members were also informed that the changes in local authority structure in Dorset may impact upon the number of subscriptions to SCOPAC.

It was AGREED that;

- a) The SCG / SCOPAC budget position for 2018/19 be noted;
- b) The proposed SCG / SCOPAC position for 2019/20 be approved;
- c) Subscriptions for 2019/20 be set as follows:
 - I. Full membership - £3,488.13
 - II. Associate membership - £436.46
 - III. Mailing list membership - £72.75; and

d) The SCOPAC contribution to the SCG be £30,656.14.

86 AOB

There were no further matters for discussion.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Group discussed possible future formats for SCOPAC meetings, with the aim of encouraging maximum attendance.

Members agreed that meetings could be held more informally in future years, with a more interactive presentation-style format. Other suggestions discussed included changing the frequency, venue or timing of meetings, and encouraging wider attendance from guests or suppliers. It was also proposed that members be contacted individually to discuss preferences for the way forward.

It was AGREED that the Chairman and the Chairman of the SCG would discuss the future format of SCOPAC meetings and report to the next SCOPAC meeting.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 12.20 pm

STANDING CONFERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

12 OCTOBER 2018 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Councillor Mary Penfold – Chairman of SCOPAC

Richard Austin, Chichester Harbour Conservancy

Lyall Cairns, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

Peter Christie, Dorset Council Partnership

Councillor John Connor, Chichester District Council

Dr Samantha Cope, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

Dominic Henly, Chichester District Council

Councillor John Hobart, Isle of Wight Council

Mr Matt Hosey, Borough of Poole Council

Jenny Jakeways, Isle of Wight Council

Councillor Hugh Mason, Portsmouth City Council

Peter McGarvey, Boskalis Westminster Limited

Andrew Pearce, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

Councillor Kenneth Smith, Havant Borough Council

Mark Stratton, Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

Charlie Thompson, Channel Coastal Observatory

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