

Minutes of the Standing Conference on Problems Associated with the Coastline held at the Civic Offices, Havant on Tuesday 15 September 2009, commencing at 10.15am

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

<u>Apologies:</u> Dr Mike Bateman	-	Southern RFDC
Cllr F Carpenter	-	New Forest District Council
Cllr T Munro	-	Weymouth & Portland District Council
Cllr A Starr	-	Purbeck District Council
Cllr H Mason	-	Portsmouth City Council
Mark Tinnion	-	Environment Agency
Neil Watson	-	Environment Agency
Nick Lyness	-	Environment Agency
Gary Lane	-	Environment Agency
Cllr Anderson	-	Bournemouth Borough Council
Cllr P Adams	-	Poole Borough Council
Cllr J Wride	-	Havant Borough Council
Isle of Wight AONB Partnership		

1. Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 13 March 2009 be approved.

2. 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:

- 2.1) Annual Report and Accounts for SCOPAC for 2008/09
- 2.2) Financial Support for the Coastal Groups and Funding Initiatives

Members received an update from the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group on the current progress of discussions with the Environment Agency regarding financial support. The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group estimated that a contribution sum from the Environment Agency of approximately £12,000 was appropriate for the half-year to the end of September 2009; details would be sent to the EA shortly. SCOPAC very much hoped that the question of the EA contribution to Coastal Groups would be resolved quickly.

- 2.3) SCOPAC Response to Draft Floods and Water Bill
- 2.4) Response to Defra Coastal Change Consultation

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group highlighted that the consultation document had been well written and recommended that pathfinder initiatives should be supported. Members were invited to contact the chairman if they had any additional issues that they wished to be included in the response.

- 2.5) New UK Climate Projections 2009

SCOPAC members were informed that while the results of the new study showed no worsening of predictions a note of caution was urged as the original 2006 predictions revealed a serious situation, with the likelihood of increased levels of flooding in the future.

2.6) National Assessment of Flood Risk and Long-Term Investment Strategy

The Environment Agency advised members that the two reports were unsuitable to be sent out electronically; therefore they would have to be sent out to members at a later date.

2.7) Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping – Progress Report

Stacia Staunton, the Environment Agency's Coastal Engagement Manager for the Southern Region, attended the meeting and informed members that any suggestions regarding the maps was welcomed and that she was available to provide any communication support and help that members required.

2.8) Second Generation Shoreline Management Plans – Update

2.9) Flood & Coastal Risk Management – External Contributions

Members received a report from the Environment Agency highlighting the issues of external contributions to flood and coastal risk management. The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group informed members that it might be unrealistic to try and obtain contributions from parties that are deemed most at risk. It was also felt that claiming contributions from groups that were already protected was difficult to justify. In response the Environment Agency stated that any contribution would help the scheme progress and the plan was seen as a useful step forward. It was stressed that while the plan was still in its infancy it could provide a useful tool that opens up various opportunities.

Members also expressed an interest in investigating methods of developing public-private partnerships to improve coastal defence schemes. Selsey Caravan Park was cited as a recent individual scheme that had raised substantial sums of money for coastal defence through local business contributions. Members were of the opinion that the option of partnership working should be looked at and benefits assessed.

2.10) Solent Forum – SOMAP Project

Solent Forum passed on their apologies for not attending the meeting and requested an opportunity to make a presentation at a future SCOPAC meeting. An email address was included in the report so members were available to contact them if they had any questions.

2.11) Publications and Information Dissemination

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group informed members that the 'Non-technical guide to coastal risk management' had generated lots of positive feedback. Members were also reminded that if they had not yet received a copy of the guide to please contact the Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group and arrangements will be made to send one out.

Members were please to note that the new web-based map highlighting coastal risk management strategic planning was in the final stages of development. A paper copy of the map was circulated at the meeting and members were assured that it would be available on the SCOPAC website shortly.

2.12) Planning Policy Consultation – A New Planning Policy on Development and Coastal Change

SCOPAC members received a report regarding a new draft policy on development and coastal change. It was pointed out that the current PPG20 was being updated in consultation with key stakeholders because it was felt that the old policy provided a framework that was too rigid and severely restricted development in risk areas. It was hoped that the new policy would prove to be more adaptable and help reduce the severity of impact on affected areas. It was anticipated that the Coastal Groups would provide a centralised response. In response the Environment Agency advised members of the possibility that the new policy could become an annex of PPG25.

2.13) Marine and Coastal Access Bill – Update

2.14) South-East Region Coastal Study in the Context of Climate Change Adaptation

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group informed members that the recent study undertaken by Scott Wilson had raised some significant concerns, particularly regarding a lack of integration. The Environment Agency recommended that a joined up approach between the various parties would be beneficial in order to prevent any duplication of effort. It was suggested a joint conference involving Scott Wilson, Local Government, the Environment Agency, Coastal Groups and other key stakeholders should be investigated. Members also expressed an interest in receiving a presentation from Scott Wilson at some point on the future.

2.15) Strategic Monitoring Programme Annual General Meeting

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group advised members that the cost of the next meeting would be met by SCOPAC. Members were informed that the Group was not eligible for funds to host meetings but recent administrative savings would offset the cost.

2.16) Appointment of Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group

The Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group paid tribute to David Green who had retired since the last meeting. He was thanked for the very significant and productive role he had played in supporting SCOPAC since 1985. He had always offered constructive criticism and continued to be a strong voice for the Group until his retirement. David was thanked for all his help and wished all the best for the future.

The Chairman of SCOPAC also gave his thanks to Dr Robin McInnes who was attending his last meeting as Chairman of the Southern Coastal Group. Robin was praised for the diligent, detailed and excellent work he had always provided to the Group. His many years of involvement in SCOPAC had resulted in valuable work being carried out which had significantly raised the profile of

SCOPAC. The members thanked Robin for his endeavours and wished him all the best for the future.

RESOLVED That

- i) The report be noted.
- ii) The reports for information be noted.
- iii) The annual report for 2008/09 be approved and receipt of the end of year audited accounts be noted.
- iv) The opportunities that may be available for SCOPAC to participate in research at the European and national levels be noted
- v) Submission of proposals by SCOPAC and partners from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Defra 'Coastal Change Adaptation Pathfinder Fund' be welcomed.
- vi) The response to the consultation by Defra on the draft Floods and Water Management Bill 2009 be noted.
- vii) The response to the Defra consultation on coastal change policy be noted.
- viii) Progress with the roll out of the coastal erosion risk maps and the Coastal Engagement initiative be noted.
- ix) The Environment Agency report on external contributions to flood and coastal erosion risk management be noted.
- x) The launch of the consultation by Communities and Local Government on development coastal change be noted.
- xi) The sum of £1,000 for hosting the 2009 strategic monitoring programme annual general meeting be approved.
- xii) The appointment of Professor Andrew Bradbury as Chairman of the Southern Coastal group and Mr Tim Kermod and Mr Lyall Cairns as vice-chairmen be noted.
- xiii) The appointment of Dr Samantha Cope as chairman of the SCOPAC Research Sub-Group be noted.
- xiv) The Valuable contribution provided to SCOPAC by Mr David Green formerly of Arun District Council be gratefully acknowledged.
- xv) Dr Robin McInnes be thanked for all his years of hard work and commitment in raising the profile of SCOPAC.

3. Illustrated Presentation – “Managed realignment: good practice/lessons learned”

SCOPAC members received a presentation on “Managed realignment: good practice/lessons learned” by Dr. Natalie Frost, Marine Ecologist for ABP Marine

Environmental Research Ltd. Members were interested to see the work being carried out and the various initiatives being put in place.

RESOLVED That Dr Frost be thanked for her interesting and informative presentation.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 12.35pm.

Date of next meeting: Friday 11th December 2009

STANDING CONERENCE ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COASTLINE

15TH SEPTEMBER 2009 – LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING

Cllr Roger Elkins – Chairman of SCOPAC

Dr Robin McInnes OBE – Chairman of Southern Coastal Group

Bournemouth Borough Council
Dr David Harlow

Chichester District Council
Cllr R O'Brien
Mr D Lowsley

Christchurch Borough Council
Cllr M Duckworth

Eastleigh Borough Council
Cllr D Airey

Environment Agency
Mr A Gilham
Ms S Staunton
Mr T Kermod

Fareham Borough Council
Mr S Mills

Gosport Borough Council
Cllr B Forder

Havant Borough Council
Cllr P Buckley

Havant and Portsmouth Councils
Coastal Partnership
Mr L Cairns

New Forest District Council
Professor Andy Bradbury
Dr Sam Cope

Poole Borough Council
Mr D Robson

Purbeck District Council
Mr M Goater

West Dorset District Council
Cllr Mrs Penfold
Mr P Perkins

OBSERVERS
Mr G Momber - HWTMA
Mr J Canning – Raymond Brown
Construction
Dr. Natalie Frost – ABP Mer
Mr D Green