

## **Minutes of the 110<sup>th</sup> Fleet study Group meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014.**

**Present:** E Harland, D Moxom, R Waldock, A Scott, J Dadds, S Feist, K Donnelly, A Holiday, M Smith, D Bucke, R Carpenter, J Cox, S Ashman, B Jones, N Owen, J Bass, C Bolton.

**Apologies:** G Poole, L Baldock, D Brunsdon, R Edmonds, L Evans, S Hales.

**Minutes of the 109<sup>th</sup> meeting :** Approved.

### **Matters arising:**

Steve Feist reported no known EU funding for litter surveys.

### **Reports from representatives:**

**DCF** – drop in meeting on Portland attended by Alan Holiday – nothing to report. The next meeting will be held at the Sailing Academy on 15<sup>th</sup> May – one session will be on Storm Events.

**PHCC**- the last meeting was cancelled, next one due in June.

### **Coastal Access:**

Ben Jones reported that Illchester Estates were in discussion with Natural England on 4 options for the Western Fleet.

- 1) Existing SW Coast path
- 2) Directly along Chesil Beach
- 3) New Barn Road and other rights of way
- 4) Langton Herring to High Barn to Chesters Hill to The Swannery

All options have pros and cons.

The last option is NEs preferred route therefore not along the Fleet shore but some distance back. After taking advice on access and footpath history Illchester Estates have responded highlighting their concerns re the disturbance to the W Fleet and are now awaiting a response from NE. submission for the whole section is due in the early summer. NE local officers will have to undertake an Appropriate Assessment on the proposal and are currently gathering data to inform this. There will be a public consultation period. Comments from members of the FSG can be made to Neil Constable of NE, copied to the chair for distribution to the group.

### **Winter Storms:**

Presentations on the effects of the winter storms on Chesil Beach were given by Ed Harland, Don Moxom, Jonathan Cox, Ruth Carpenter, Alan Holiday, John Dadds and Steve Feist. It is hoped to make these presentations available on the FSG website.

### **FSG Field Day 2014:**

Suggestions for the 2014 Field day included taking forward the 2013 litter survey especially in light of the storms, looking at formation and distribution of new cans, repeat of the NE vegetation survey. Ideas for the day should be sent to Ed Harland. Date in June to be confirmed.

### **Hamm Beach sewage leak:**

Ruth Carpenter reported that the main sewage main had fractured on Hamm Beach opposite the Chesil Beach Centre – works to remediate the site have been agreed.

### **Any Other Business:**

Denis Seaward memorial – this will be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 3pm at Chetnole for those wishing to go.

Steve Hales – bird survey hoped to begin soon subject to conditions.

Charlotte Bolton asked if there was any plankton work undertaken in the Fleet – a student working on Zooplankton (Oct-Dec) – report due out soon.

John Bass – water temperature loggers have been replaced in the upper Fleet – it will be interesting to see if the storms have left a signature.

John Dadds – a fund raising evening for the Little Terns involving an Auction of Promises is to be held – any promises welcome.

John Bass – the Fleet has been designated as a heavily modified water body under the WFD – the reasons why have been requested from the EA.

### **Future meetings:**

18<sup>th</sup> July at Abbotsbury

21<sup>ST</sup> November at the Chesil Beach Centre.