

# **Minutes of the 111<sup>th</sup> Fleet Study Group meeting held at the Ilchester Estate office, Abbotsbury on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014.**

**Present:** E Harland, D Moxom, R Waldock, L. Baldock, J Dadds, K Donnelly, A Holiday, J Cox, N Owen, R. Edmonds,

**Apologies:** G Poole, D Brunsdon, L Evans, S Hales. J. Bass, S Ashman, R. Carpenter, A. Scott, S. Eden, S. Wilson

Lowri Evans is leaving the Southern IFCA and will be replaced by Simon Pengelly.

**Minutes of the 110<sup>th</sup> meeting :** Approved.

**Matters arising:** None

## **Reports from representatives:**

**DCF** – the meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> May included a session on the impacts of the recent storms. Presentations can be found at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/dorset-coast-forum/events-publications> . The next DCF meeting will be in November.

**PHCC-** meeting in early June – application for the removal of a redundant pipeline at Bincleaves.

**Coastal Access:** Don Moxom distributed a report he has written for the Chesil Beach and the Fleet Nature reserve which outlined the Nature Conservation of the Fleet. The report focuses on the birds of the Fleet as a whole and then specifically on the West Fleet. Data has been gathered along the length of the Fleet and has been broken down into 26 sections on the land side and 9 on the beach side. The presence of 25 key species was looked at using BTO methodology. The overall view is that Natural England's proposed route is too close to the Fleet, and that while steps have been taken to reduce disturbance it will not eliminate it. A copy of the report will be e-mailed to members and comments are welcomed.

Footprint ecology have been contracted by Natural England to undertake a Bird Disturbance Study in the West Fleet.

**Chesil and the Fleet EMS Steering Group and TAG:** This was poorly attended and there has been a suggestion that the FSG should take on the role of the Technical Advisory Group. It would need to ensure agencies such as the EA etc were represented.

**Jurassic Coast Annual Seminar:** Details can be found at <http://jurassiccoast.org>

## **Research Reports:**

Lin Baldock gave a report on the remapping of the shingle springs in the East Fleet post the winter storms. Data from a February deployment of temperature data loggers was also discussed. A copy of this presentation is attached to the minutes.

John Dadds gave an update on the Little Tern Colony. This year has seen the best breeding success since 1976 with 50 – 60 fledglings from 33 pairs (up 8 on last year). There has been a tremendous volunteer input with 16 new volunteers (now 40+) and a real community feel to the project. Funding for next year will be less as the Crown Estate are no

longer funding small projects (and therefore the Court Leets input will also go) and Natural Englands funding is reducing year on year. Mitigation money from the EA for damage to the Hamm Beach may be forthcoming.

Richard Edmonds reported on the use of a UAV (Drone) to produce a photomontage to map the geology of the undercliffs to the West of Lyme Regis. This could be used to map the vegetated shingle of Chesil Beach. Dorset County Council are considering buying such a unit.

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

This was discussed and it was agreed that the event should take place August/September and would repeat the litter survey conducted in 2013. Post meeting note: Jon Bass and Lin Baldock have agreed to take over the organization of this event and it is now planned for the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

#### **Any other business**

Alan Holiday drew attention to two recent publications regarding the impact of storms on Chesil beach. Copies of these are attached to these minutes.

#### **Future meetings:**

The next meeting will be on 21<sup>ST</sup> November at the Chesil Beach Centre. Don Moxom said he would investigate an alternative venue for the March 2015 meeting.