

Minutes of the 114th Fleet study Group meeting held on 17th July 2015.

Present: E. Harland, D. Moxom, R. Waldock, J. Dadds, A. Holiday, J. Cox, C. Bolton, S. Fiest, , R. Carpenter, C.Wheeler.

Apologies: S Hales. J. Bass, L. Baldock, A. Scott, R. Edmonds, R. Acornley, J. Mead, M. Doggett, N. Michard, N. Owen, M. Smith.

Richard Edmonds is standing down as he is no longer with Dorset County Council.
Sam Scriven to be invited to join the group in his place.

Minutes of the 113th meeting : Approved.

Matters arising: None.

Reports from representatives:

DCF: – The 20th anniversary meeting of the Dorset Coastal Forum was held on the 19th June at the Pennsylvania Castle and was a celebration of past successes rather than a look forward to problems facing the Dorset coast. Keynote speech and photos can be found at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/dorset-coast-forum/events>

PHCC:- met on June 9th. The underground oil tanks are no longer in use. Bunkering is still taking place with an oil tanker coming over from Antwerp. The shellfish farm on the middle arm of the breakwater is closing – a buyer is being sought.

The annual oil spill exercise has taken place – the port is currently one tug down.
<http://portland-port.co.uk/sustainability>

Research Reports:

S. Feist is interested in invertebrates in the Fleet for infection/environmental signals work. The biodiversity (especially polychaetes) of the Ferrybridge area is not well known and what info there is appears to be out of date. This is a possibility for a Porcupine site visit?

Seagrass initiative – nothing to report as yet – 3/4th August next planned visit.

Chesil and the Fleet EMS Steering Group and TAG: Nothing for this meeting.
Helena Towers maybe taking over from Tim Halls as NE representative.

The Military at Chickerell – D. Moxom gave a presentation on military structures on Chesil Beach using aerial photos and old maps.

PCO Workshop. Held on 21st April – lots of useful information on accessing the CCO data – an additional workshop is needed to access and evaluate data re the impact of the storms on Chesil Beach.

FSG Field Day 2015.

The proposal is to take a swathe of beach, map the biodiversity and litter and then clean away the litter and document the damage done and the subsequent recovery. Suggested location is adjacent to survey point CB14 (opposite Moonfleet Manor). EH to circulate plan and dates.

The surveyed marker posts- possible future work?

Suggestion to conduct a long term study. The survey already done is on the FSG website <http://www.chesilbeach.org/FSG/markers.html> <http://www.chesilbeach.org/FSG/points.pdf> . The suggestion is that FSG members 'adopt' a post and regularly survey/record (plants/insects etc) and photograph the immediate (2m wide circle) area surrounding it. EH to send out a request to members

The future of the FSG website and Archive.

The website has been downgraded by Google as it is 'old fashioned'. The website and archive need integrating. Currently the FSG website is a sub-site of the Chesil Beach website – should it be an independent site? It would be a big job to re do the website and money would be needed. Suggested funding sources – NBN, AONB, Curry Fund. Possible use of a university student? EH to take out the Fleet Study Group and FSG web addresses.

The archive remains to be assessed

Coastal Access.

The proposed Coastal Access route was shown and discussed. Public consultation ends on Sept 2nd. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-improving-public-access-to-the-coast#history>

Ilchester Estates will be responding independently. Supporting documents to be circulated by EH (bird studies etc). The FSG will await the Ilchester Estates response before deciding whether to respond or not.

AOB:

J. Dadds: Little Tern update – 33 pairs nested – 2 weeks earlier than usual. The night wardening hadn't started and a fox predated 12 of 16 clutches, but these were relaid. The kestrels are the biggest problem. 40 fledglings are hoped for.

E. Harland: Amphipods in the Fleet seem to be an under-recorded group. S. Feist will check to see if Cefas work covered the Fleet.

D. Moxom: money from the Fleet and Swannery Trust for instrumentation can be used for website/archive work.

Future meetings and venues – 20th November 2015 – CB Centre
18th March 2016