

Fleet Study Group

Minutes of the 64th meeting of the FSG held at Committee Room 4 at Dorset County Council
on 27th November 1998

Present : A Carr (Chairman), Emma Pitcher (Secretary), S Cooke (DCC), K Coombe, V Copley (EN), P Dyrinda (Swansea University), S Eden, E Green (Ilchester Estates), D Moxom (Ilchester Estates), G Poole, P Sterling (DCC), D Seaward, D Wheeler (Ilchester Estates), Katherine Stout (National Maritime Museum), Sarah Whelton (Dorset Wildlife Trust)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

J Churchouse, J Fitzpatrick, J Whittaker (NHM).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

i) There is a Dorset Coastal Forum Meeting in December. D Seaward is unlikely to be able to represent the group but V.Copley and K. Coombe agreed to represent FSG.

ii) P.Sterling to give presentation at next Novembers meeting, also V. Copley offered to give a presentation on SAC objectives at the meeting in March 1999.

4. MARINE SAC LIFE PROGRAMME (EN)

See attached paper

5. PROCEEDINGS OF 1993 SYMPOSIUM

P. Sterling reported that the Proceedings were nearly complete. All the text is completed and was given out to the specific authors for correction, deadline for the return of chapters with corrections is Christmas. The diagrams are being redrawn by Tech Graphics and should be ready by Christmas. These will then be given to the authors to check.

It was decided that an individual address or affiliation should be given by all authors. Only editors should refer to their FSG Membership. D.Seaward suggested a short paragraph about the proceedings and what they contain. This was agreed to.

V.Copley raised the possibility a 4th symposium, however it was agreed that the Proceedings of the 3rd should be completed before this is considered.

6. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

Management Update - Don Moxom:

The final copy of the management plan is with the Estate and a 1st draft will be produced in a short while. The plan will be co-ordinated with the SAC management plan and possible plans for the Fleet to become a NNR so that they are all compatible.

Portland Port had provided a copy of their Environmental Appraisal and Risk analysis for the Fleet Lagoon it highlights areas in which the FSG may be involved. It includes a list of threats that face the Fleet and how big those threats are. There is a copy at present with A. Carr, for members to see. Considered a very useful document.

7. RESEARCH PROJECTS

D. Seaward pointed out that it was difficult to obtain funding for study into the history of the Fleet. Studies largely depended on good will.

Possible sources of funding could be the Landfill Tax scheme or Heritage Lottery. To improve chances of funding the study should show possible management implications that could be gained from the work.

The Fleet and Swanery Trust is enrolled as an environmental body with Entrust (the regulatory body that administers the Landfill Tax Scheme). It might be possible for the FSG to gain funding for a project via this route.

Future Project Proposals include:

- Heavy Metal Dating
- Mobility of Sediments
- Lagoon Contaminants e.g. Metal analysis

8. A.O.B

- It has been noticed that there are a number of web sites with reference to the Fleet even including references to papers. It was decided that a member should look at the sites to decide whether the FSG needed to comment; S Cooke and P Dyrinda volunteered to do this.
- World Heritage Bid: Will know next month whether any schemes submitted to the U.K. government have been accepted for consideration by UNESCO.
- Jurassic Coast Project: The Goetourism Project is to be further developed to include seminars in the winter. A Draft Code of Conduct for Fossils collecting has been produced. There is a meeting on 30th November 1998 which S.Cooke will attend and report back.
- The Linnean Society is promoting a conference on:
"Ecology and Geomorphology of Coastal Shingle"- EUCC-UK, 8-12 April 1999
Wye College Kent.
- FSG Archive catalogue is up to date (Oct 98) and is available in both alphabetical order and order of accession. The archive is available from DERC.
- DWT have formed a combined committee with the Dorset Coastal Forum to cover the marine life field. They have also appointed a Marine Conservation Officer.

9. DATES OF 1999 MEETINGS

- 26th March 1998 at West Yard, Abbotsbury.
- 30th July 1998 - location to be decided.
- 26th November 1998 - location to be decided.

The meeting was followed by two presentations :

1. Presentation by Katherine Stout on the Sound sculpture of Chesil Beach and the Fleet to be displayed at the National Maritime Museum.
2. Presentation by D.Seaward on the Fleet Sediments.