

FLEET STUDY GROUP

Minutes of the 87th meeting of the Fleet Study Group, held at the Estate Office, West Barn Yard, Abbotsbury, on the 21st July 2006.

Present: John Whittaker (Chairman), Dennis Seaward, Geoff Poole, Lin Baldock, Sue Burton, Malcolm Bray, Don Moxom, Richard Edmonds, Gordon Le Pard, Jon Bass, and Danuta Kochanowska. *Ken Cosm*

Andy Bradbury (Channel Coast Observatory), Jeremy Pile (University of Bournemouth) and James Grischeff (Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer) were welcomed to the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence: these were received from Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Ed Harland and Kevin Donnelly.

2. Notes of Last Meeting: Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

Bird Flu – caution still being advised.

4. Reports from Representatives:

Dorset Coast Forum – e-news now available.

Olympics 2012 – most events will take place in Weymouth Bay and not Portland Harbour therefore the Fleet is less likely to be effected. It is expected that the subject will form part of the next Dorset Coast Forum meeting (November 2006).

Joint Dorset Marine Committee – consultation on the Marine Bill received.

FSG Website – once broadband facilities are available this will be hosted from the Chesil Beach Centre.

FSG archive – this has been updated by Dennis Seaward. All new documents have been deposited at Weymouth College Library.

5. Current Research:

The next seafan survey will take place on August 3rd.

Alan Carr Survey Points – in place but not yet surveyed. Ed Harland is keen to undertake survey – could be accompanied on first visit by Malcolm Bray. Posts need to be marked and profiling could be undertaken at the same time. Suggested that tyres could be used and filled with coloured concrete. English Nature consent would need to be applied for. Ed would be well placed to resurvey post storm events as he lives locally.

6. Future meetings and venues:

17th November 2006 [N.B. This has had to be changed to 24th November) at Abbotsbury.

16th March 2007.

Possible future locations – Slepe Farm / DCC / Langton Herring Village Hall / Weymouth College.

Future presentations: - suggestions included the Olympics legacy, Ed Harland on Fleet instrumentation, EMU on Fleet intertidal survey, Alasdair Bruce on the Abbotsbury Wall.

7. AOB.

Gordon Le Pard – reported that the anchors at the Swannery were from a wreck in Lyme Bay about 15 years ago. The archaeological database has been integrated with the maritime database, but errors still need to be corrected.

Richard Edmonds – WHS team to promote research on coastline – there is however currently an imbalance in funding in favour of recreation and tourism as opposed to research. Structure of posts in WHS team being rethought.

Presentations:

Andy Bradbury (Channel Coast Observatory, Southampton) – reviewed the strategic monitoring programme. A LIDAR survey was planned for autumn 2006 at LW springs, with a topographic survey slightly later. Aerial surveys were also planned, 3 times over a 5 year period. Survey of whole coastline planned for Autumn 2007. 2 wavebuoys were being sited at Chiswell and in West Bay – high risk areas. New tide gauge at West Bay. Ecological monitoring – interpretation of LIDAR, CASI and aerials – will take place once other data is available (2007). A new office is to be opened in Plymouth.

Jeremy Pile (University of Bournemouth) gave a presentation on his Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveying of Chesil Beach. He showed us some of the initial results and hoped to follow this up with further work in the autumn.

James Grischeff gave a presentation on the new Catchment Sensitive Farming Project (which he had recently been appointed to lead), and its reference to the Fleet.

The next meeting of the FSG will take place on Friday 17th November 2006. [Please note, because of unavailability of many FSG members, this has now been put back to Friday 24th November, at Abbotsbury]