



National Beach Safety Council

Minutes of the NBSC AGM (6th Meeting) held on Friday 14th October 2005 **Venue: RNLI College**

25 representatives attended (11 Local Authority, 14 Other), schedule attached – 10 Apologies received.

1. Welcome and introductions

Tony Jones opened the meeting. Adam Wooler welcomed those attending and invited all to a tour of the College.

2. Apologies.

10 apologies received – schedule attached.

3. Minutes of previous AGM held at the RNLI HQ, Poole, on the 29 October 2004

Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. Election of new officers.

The Chair of the meeting was passed to Peter Cornall.

One nomination was made for Tony Jones to continue as Chairman.

Agreed by majority.

The Chair reverted to Tony Jones.

One nomination was made for Paul Castle to continue as Vice Chairman.

Agreed by majority.

Secretariat – Proposal made that RNLI to continue for the next 12 months

Agreed unanimously. RNLI to continue as Secretariat.

Agenda

1. Matters arising from previous meeting

This was the last hard copy of minutes that will be available. Minutes will now be downloadable from NBSC Website.

Chris Holm and Rolo Deards confirm minutes correct.

2. NBSC membership – results from survey

134 questionnaires were sent out and 30 replies received.

Chairman and Secretariat details will be the only contact details to be put on the NBSC website in the future.

3. NBSC website - update

Introduction to the website from David Walker.

On carrying out a Google search the NBSC website is located as the 70th listing therefore suggesting that site hits are low.

To encourage more visitors to the site it is suggested there needs to be more links to the site from local authority sites.

There is not enough regional representation on the website.

A straw poll of those attending revealed only half had visited the site. Over the next 6 to 12 months the website will be developed and populated by David Walker and the RNLI. For example an electronic version of RoSPA's 'Safety On Beaches' will be put on the site.

The idea behind the National Water Safety Forum website is to provide a 'one stop shop' for information. The way this information is selected and how decisions are made needs to be demonstrated especially as this information will be viewed by government.

Richard Allen commented that the links should remove the need for member contact details.

Phil Drew requested that there should be consultation before press releases are placed on the website.

4.NWSF update – RoSPA

Talk by Peter Cornall

The NWSF is fully up and running with each area of the forum having regular group meetings.

GIG have met once with reasonable support from other organisations with one notable absence from DEFRA. The next meeting is set for early December.

The next NWSF congress will be an AGM in order to bring all groups involved together.

The website is still being developed and it is important that it does not go stale and remains transparent.

The NWSF is an information forum that acts as a clearing house for all the groups within it. It gives the information a rubber stamp of approval and can be viewed as official UK data.

A discussion was held in relation to combining NWSF Meetings with conferences like RoSPA and ENCAMS.

5. Beach Lifeguarding 'responsibility issue' – update

The responsibility issue is a 'Hot topic' that is being ignored by some members of Parliament.

Adam Wooler suggested that it is in the interest of the NBSC to clarify this issue. A paper has been written and sent to GIG/UK SAR Committee/DFT/DEFRA. A government meeting was held between ODPM/DFT and DEFRA and the issue remains with ODPM.

Other pressures have been placed upon the government such as the South West Tourist Boards meeting with Malcolm Bell at the ENCAMS conference recently who also proposed that the public pay to visit the beaches.

Peter Brown (MCA) has been involved in discussions but the MCA does not want to take on any further responsibility for beaches. He warned against Local Authorities using statistics to overplay the issue.

Tony Jones commented that Regional meetings are crucial as they show the 'top end that we mean business.

Adam Wooler will draft a standard letter to be sent to every council asking them to detail the number of rescues that have taken place (with clear and standard definitions of what incidents are for example major first aid).

A discussion took place regarding the question of funding and the statutory nature of beach lifeguarding. Phil Drew suggested that funding needs to come second to the statutory nature. Tony Jones thought that this would take it out of the hands of Local Authorities and into the hands of the local Fire and Rescue Service. Peter Cornell commented that there needs to be a clarification on the issue of duty of care and inviting people 'onto your land'.

Richard Allen suggested that Councils have been educated in the last 15 months and are using this to remove the Lifeguard service. This could result in a fragmented Beach Lifeguard service.

Katherine Ellicott (ENCAMS) can provide figures in support of BLG rescue statistics. Adam Wooler informed the group that there will be a rollout of the National Statistics Database for INREM/BREM/SREM.

A letter to be sent to the ODPM, BAEREM and SAEREM (copy to be sent to the Group at the same time) with national statistics calling for action/clarification on responsibility.

6. Issues from Regional Reports

South West Region is holding a meeting next month.

Brighton commented that there have been problems with BBQ's and fires on beaches. Byelaws have been passed for 12 bathing bays to keep out sailing and motorised craft. This is to be enforced by working with the Police.

North East Region commented on the misuse of jet skis and issuing Anti Social Behaviour Orders.

South Region raised the increase of anti social behaviour and the lack of Police support.

Adam Wooler requested that local authorities started collecting statistics regarding assaults.

Brian Cummings from Bournemouth Borough Council informed the group that the Poole Bay Safety Management Group is going to evolve into the Southern NBSC region and will be meeting shortly.

Danny Bryant suggested need to create an Executive Group to move things on for the NBSC. This is not possible under the new constitution so working groups will be set up. The next one will be on risk assessment and will be held on the 22nd November 2005.

7. AOB/Date and Venue of next Meeting

Seasonality of use – there needs to be a general acceptance that the duty of care does not end when children return to school.

PRE Survey - there needs to be a standardisation of PRE and research by Steve Wills of the RNLI is being put into place to look into funding and trials. Cliff Nelson for the RLSS will collaborate under the banner of the NBSC.

Brian Cummings – Poole Bay safety Management Group – will evolve into the 'Southern NBSC Group'. Meeting to be held shortly.

Tony Jones proposed an NBSC tie and ladies headscarf.
Date and venue of next meeting to be confirmed.

ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES SCHEDULE.

Sixth National Beach Safety Council AGM

Hosted by the RNLI

Friday 14th October 2005

RNLI COLLEGE, POOLE

Attendance List

Tony Jones	Metropolitan Borough of Wirral
Peter Cornall	RoSPA
Rolo Deards	Carrick District Council
Vicky Miller	Brighton and Hove Council
Chris Holm	Brighton and Hove Council
Terry Rogers	Blackpool Borough Council
Richard Allen	Kerrier District Council
Phil Drew	Penwith District Council
Paul Mimmack	Jersey Harbours
Brian Cummings	Bournemouth Borough Council
Davis Walker	RoSPA
Kevin Stringfellow	Sefton Council
Roger Cocker	Sefton Council
Paul Macwilliams	Fylde Borough Council
Graham Wall	Thanet Leisure Force
Chris Betts	Thanet Leisure Force
Cliff Nelson	RLSS
Peter Brown	MCA
Danny Bryant	SLSA
Adam Wooler	RNLI
Peter Dawes	RNLI
Steve Instance	RNLI
Kate Thew	RNLI
Geoff Wade	RNLI
Matt Horton	RNLI

Apologies Received

Sarah Wilson	Lancaster City Council
David Piper	West Whitering Estate
Steven Cloughting	Waveney District Council
Ian Harrison	Waveney District Council
Matt Stickels	Canterbury City Council
Fred Walkington	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Mike Cunningham	Swansea Council
Alison Holme	Swanage Town Council
Ray Turner	Poole Borough Council
Chris Saunders	Poole Borough Council