



National Beach Safety Council

Minutes of the NBSC meeting held on Monday 14th March 2005
Venue: Highcliffe Marriott Hotel, Bournemouth.

32 representatives attended (Local Authority 22, Other 10), schedule attached – 15 Apologies received.

1. Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chairman, Tony Jones welcomed all those attending the meeting. Apologies were read, schedule attached.

2. Minutes of previous AGM meeting held at the RNLI College, Poole, on the 29th October 2004

Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. New Constitution and Terms of Reference

The task group met to review the constitution and TOR's. The new revised version of which was tabled and adopted as is on the basis that it is a working document and may require amendments post discussions/developments with the GIG/NWSF, copy attached.

It was felt necessary to widen the remit of the group to take account of the increasing number of private beach owners and contracted services now being run, 26-28% lifeguard services are now run by private owners/contractors. Governing bodies are now to be given voting status. Phil Drew issued concern over the RNLI's membership status, it was reinforced that the RNLI is represented as 1 member, therefore still only has 1 vote.

It was agreed to send out a questionnaire to determine who wished to continue as a member of the NBSC and to ask for a single point of contact to go on the website (see attached).

Chris Holm raised the issue of the NBSCs' liability about giving out advice/information to individuals. Peter Cornall thought that this would be covered by the relationship that the NBSC has with the NWSF, but this was an issue that they are going to be taking up with the GIG in the near future.

4. RLSS Beach Lifeguard Programme Update

Adrian Lole gave an update of the RLSS programme and tabled a few copies of the first draft of the Rescue Paddle Craft syllabus, if you require a copy please contact RLSS. The programme splits training into Core and Specialist units.

RLSS are looking to appoint a Beach Programme Manager; the closing date for applications is 31st March. On the back of this a Beach Programme Board will be formed to oversee the development of the beach qualifications etc with the aim of building the resources as they have done with pools in recent years. The NBSC will have representation on this board, details to be confirmed at a later date.

5. SLSA Beach Lifeguard Training Update

Danny Bryant was unable to attend to give an update and submitted his apologies.

6. NBSC / NWSF website update

David Walker gave an update of the website during the RoSPA conference. The website is now live and can be accessed through:

www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk or www.nationalbeachsafety.org.uk

It is envisaged that all minutes from the NBSC will be posted on the website along with regional updates.

It was asked that people have a look at the website and feedback any comments to RoSPA and it was agreed that the Web Format Task Groups remit be widen to make sure that the content of the site does not stagnate in the future.

David was thanked by the Chairman on behalf of the group for the work done on the website.

7. National Safety Signage Manual

The RNLIs "A Guide to Beach Safety Signs, Flags and Symbols" was launched on Monday 14th March. There has been a large amount of media interest and a copy will be sent to all LA's in the coming weeks. If you have any further questions or queries please contact Steve Wills (swills@rnli.org.uk).

8. Beach Lifeguarding – "Whose Responsibility is it"

The question of responsibility has been an ongoing issue for many years. More and more LA's are deciding not to fund LG services because it is not clear who is actually responsible for the provision of a service, and therefore who pays.

There are three routes for getting the message across to the Government:

- I. NWSF/ GIG group
- II. UKSAR Committees
- III. Department for Transport select committee review of SAR

Adam Wooler has written a lengthy paper that has been submitted to all three of the groups above. The summary of which was read out:

It is often said that the UK is an island nation and our beaches are our greatest natural resource. As a nation we have a duty to protect those who visit these beaches. However, for many years, through a lack of a coordinated approach to beach safety and a lack of a statutory requirement to provide a lifeguard service, people have been put at risk. In recent years the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has sought to address the problem although the issue of responsibility, liability and funding is still unclear. Financial pressure on Local Authorities has now brought the issue of 'responsibility' and therefore the requirement to fund a service to a head. The RNLI therefore seeks guidance and involvement from central Government on this fundamental issue of public safety.

The Chairman pointed out that at the inaugural meeting of the NWSF Committee, the question of Duty of Care was the first to be asked and felt answers will come in time. Phil Drew said that he has letters going back 15 yrs that he has written and believes that until it becomes a statutory requirement it will continue to be a problem.

9. Regional Reports

The North East and Devon & Cornwall (South West) Beach Safety Groups submitted written regional reports. It was agreed that in the future these will be posted on the website and only any issues arising from a regional meeting are to be brought to the NBSC meetings.

The geographical regions have not been tied down in the new constitution as they are growing quickly and it was felt unnecessary to impose restrictions or boundaries.

The South East region does not currently have a clear regional representative. It was suggested that whenever the beach management groups meet that meetings be extended to cover NBSC issues, as it will predominantly be the same people sitting around the table.

Chris Holm mentioned that Brighton and Hove Council would soon be reviewing their byelaws for the first time in 25 years. One thing they are keen to introduce is bathing only beaches and

this is being taking to the council soon. They will require comments, feedback and possibly letters of support so Chris asked whether this was something the NBSC members could help with. It was agreed that he could approach members through the secretariat and get comments as and when required.

10. AOB

Marine Conservation Society Good Beach Guide Website

The MCS website receives over 100,000 hits a month. The RNLI has been collaborating with MCS to make sure that all the information that they have for beaches is up to date. Use the link below and go to the "Submit New Beach" page to provide new information.

<http://www.goodbeachguide.co.uk/gbg2005/index.htm>

Phil Drew mentioned that they had problems with complaints from the public during the MCSs' Annual Litter Survey weekend. He also mentioned that the MCS standards are different to that of ENCAMS. This shows the importance of getting the agencies together and talking.

RNLI Beach Lifeguards Report

The first RNLI Beach Lifeguards Report 2001-2004 was tabled and a copy was offered to all present. Copies will be sent out with the minutes.

MCA

Peter Brown gave a short update of where the MCA are at the moment and mentioned that there is a big push on prevention. Along with research into participation rates, he wanted to let LA's know in advance that HMCG/MCA employees will be approaching them in the not to distant future to talk about what activities people are doing in their areas.

Ministerial objectives are currently being driven by the MCA and they are looking at the longer term. Adam Wooler asked whether in the future the GIG would drive the objectives, it was deemed that they might. This could mean that the objectives may start at the NBSC level, feed up to the GIG group and back down to the MCA.

Public Rescue Equipment

An issue was raised over the provision of public life saving equipment. It was suggested that some research should be undertaken for the National Beach Safety Council members to have a definitive guideline and policy. A questionnaire is attached to these minutes.

11. Date of next meeting

Agreed to host the next meeting in October / early November, date and location to be confirmed after the meeting.

Post meeting notes: It is proposed to hold the Autumn NBSC meeting and AGM at the RNLI College as the last meeting was such a success and the venue both reasonably priced and suitable.

Suggested date:

Fri 14th (lunch followed by meeting)

Overnight at RNLI College

Sat 15th (equipment demos/workshops -TBC)

It is has been suggested that these will be the last copies of minutes sent out in the post. In future all minutes will be posted on the NBSC website. The notification and agenda will be emailed out where possible and posted on the website as well.

ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES SCHEDULE.

Twelfth National Beach Safety Council Meeting

Monday 14th March 2005

Highcliffe Marriott Hotel, Bournemouth

Attendance List

| | | |
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| TONY JONES | WIRRAL BOROUGH | CHAIRMAN |
| PAUL CASTLE | REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL | VICE CHAIR |
| NATASHA COTTRELL | RNLI (NBSC SECRETARIAT) | |
| TERRY ROGERS | BLACKPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL | |
| BRIAN CUMMINGS | BOURNEMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL | |
| CHRIS HOLM | BRIGHTON AND HOVE DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| GARRY PAUNCEFORT | CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL | |
| JOHN HAWKINS | CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL | |
| ROLO DEARDS | CARRICK DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| ALAN OTTAWAY | CHRISTCHURCH BOROUGH COUNCIL | |
| GARY FOYLE | CHRISTCHURCH BOROUGH COUNCIL | |
| ASH CURLE | CITY OF SUNDERLAND | |
| CHRIS WARD | EAST RIDING OR YORKSHIRE COUNCIL | |
| CORAL HYNARD | HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL HAYLING ISLAND | |
| RICHARD ALLEN | KERRIER DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| ROY LAWFORD | KERRIER DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| SHARON WILSON | LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL | |
| BRETT ELLIS | LIFE SAVING VICTORIA (AUSTRALIA) | |
| GARETH DIX | NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| JAMES ORTIZ | NORTH CORNWALL DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| PETER BROWN | MCA | |
| PHIL DREW | PENWITH DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| ADRIAN LOLE | RLSS UK | |
| CHRIS LEWIS | RLSS UK | |
| CLIVE HOLLAND | RLSS UK | |
| DI COOKE | RLSS UK | |
| ADAM WOOLER | RNLI BEACH LIFEGUARDS | |
| STEVE WILLS | RNLI BEACH SAFETY | |
| DAVID WALKER | ROSPA | |
| PETER CORNALL | ROSPA | |
| PENNY WILKINSON | SOUTH TYNESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL | |
| JULIE OWEN | TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL | |
| DAVID PIPER | WEST WITTERING ESTATE | |

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Apologies Received

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| NIALL BENSON | DURHAM HERITAGE COAST |
| ENCAMS | |
| JANE LANCASTER | NORTHUMBERLAND COUNCIL |
| IAIN ROBINSON | NORTHUMBERLAND COUNCIL |
| INSPECTOR JOHN WATTS | NORTHUMBRIA POLICE |
| PAUL BELTON | NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| RAY TURNER | POOLE BOROUGH COUNCIL |
| DANNY BRYANT | SURF LIFESAVING ASSOCIATION GB |
| MARJORY HALL | SOUTHEND BOROUGH COUNCIL |
| ALLAN MAVING | SOUTH TYNESIDE BOROUGH COUNCIL |
| ALISON STOCKLEY | SWANAGE TOWN COUNCIL |
| MIKE CUNNINGHAM | CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA |
| JOE MCCARTHY | THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL |
| IAN HARRISON | WAVENEY COUNCIL |
| STEVEN CLOUTING | WAVENEY COUNCIL |