



www.frintonbeachhutassociation.co.uk

Frinton Beach Hut Association

Minutes of the AMM at the McGrigor Hall, Frinton on June 9, 2018

Present: Chairman Peter Dias, Sue Totham, Robert Hughes, Hayley Hill, Richard Fletcher, Steve Cole, Daphne West, and Julie Searles, around 80 association members, and invited speaker Mike Carran of Tendring District Council. The chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the committee. Peter then presented an overview of the year, including efforts to quell vandalism. The chairman now meets regularly with Mike Carran and Tendring's other beach hut associations to share ideas. Community Guard (formerly AGS) works closely with the association, coordinating paid patrols for potential troublesome nights. PCSOs also communicate regularly with the association, and the fire service is on hand to attend troublespots when possible, as well as running an education scheme in schools. Mosquito alarms and sensor lights have recently been installed near the pier in Walton, which has suffered worse vandalism, and TDC is about to install portable cctv cameras – these can be deployed to other areas within 24 hours. Peter welcomed the drop in vandalism statistics, possibly due to the prevention and patrols package. He also announced a day to celebrate the beach hut community on July 26, and recommended a look at the associations's new website.

1 Apologies received from: committee members Giles Watling, Philip Thornton, Chris Halstead, Len Tyler, and Toni Hayhow-Khan, plus 45 beach hut owners

2 Minutes from 2017 AMM: agreed and seconded by Jean Crane and Laurie Wisbey, signed by Chairman Peter Dias.

3 Election of committee: the chairman and committee were re-elected, proposed and seconded by Jane Hughes and Anne Humphrey.

4 Matters arising:

- **Hut numbers:** please remember to put your numbers on your huts – back and front if possible for patrollers, but front at least!
- **Rafts:** Five rafts had been launched in May, and one at the Walings was due to be launched this week. The launch had been delayed because the heavy anchor-sinkers had been buried under sand, and were difficult to locate. Halls, at Walton marina, plan to fix locations with GPS this year. The rafts continue to bring much pleasure to hundreds of swimmers each year. An idea to paint the rafts different colours is to be reconsidered at committee and with advice from Halls. Although

neon colours would make raft beaches easier to identify, it is understood white is easier to spot at sea.

- **Zigzag shelter:** Mike Carran said unfortunately there was no long term plan for a new shelter, but the planted area would be tidied up and benches installed ready for the summer holidays.

Mike Carran, operations manager for sport and leisure at TDC: Mike was asked if there had been any prosecutions for **vandalism**. Although there hadn't due to lack of evidence, he said the police were taking beach hut crime very seriously. He hoped the introduction of cameras and sensor lights would further tackle the problems. These cameras can be redeployed within hours of complaints in particular areas. He said technology meant cables were now unnecessary, and the promenade would not have to be dug up, further reducing costs. The cameras can give vital clues to the identity of perpetrators, bringing certain individuals to the attention of local police. **Dogs on the beach:** Mike said the way forward should be education, rather than more signs. Cyclists and dog owners who flout the law must be given a warning before any legal action, and this complicates prosecutions. Beach wardens have been given training to intercept perpetrators.

Cheryl Will (146) asked Mike if refurbishment was due on **the toilet block** by the golf club. He said he would look at the plan of works, and check the state of the toilets himself. Several members complained about **blocked drains and stand pipes** out of action or missing, and were told to report the tap numbers to TDC, so that work could be carried out. Mike said he would also report the numbers: F10, F12, F14, W4, and the Leas tap. Richard Noel, (103 Walings) asked that a **footpath sign** at the north end of the Walings be moved to allow the grass cutter space to turn. The driver was forced to cut the corner and leave ugly ruts to avoid this sign. Ray Pugh (141) and Gillian Miles (279) said **grass cutting** around the huts and paths should be more frequent, and **rubbish** was not properly cleared. Mike said he would meet the horticulture manager to discuss seasonal timings. Paul Key (675) said **paths** were crumbling and needed urgent attention. Gerda McQueen (543) wanted a clear message to warn people about **bbqs** near the huts, which was so dangerous. Rather than a sign, Mike suggested contacting the beach patrollers. Steve Castell (601) said the **warden contact number** should be made available. Mike to check this out. Ann Smith (264) said the breakwater in front of her hut had been badly burned exposing **dangerous bolts**. David Wilson (366) wanted a local order to allow immediate **penalty fines** for dog walkers, but Mike said this involved a complicated process, however was keen to work with associations to come up with a solution. Mrs Wilson said she understood dog walkers sometimes strayed onto 'ban' beaches because of **poor signage** from the shore. Mike said too much signage was negative, but ideas were always welcome to combat troubles with dogs. Steve Castell suggested **drones** could be used to check on people flouting byelaws, but this was considered a threat to privacy. Malcolm Foster (616) asked for clarification about dogs on the prom, and whether they had to be on the lead. Mike to check. Malcolm added that the earth-retaining wall behind his hut had partially collapsed. Mike said he would consult the engineer about the ten-year refurbishment plan. Mr Phillips, on behalf of Caroline Robinson (379) asked if the **lifebelt post** and belt could be replaced by his hut. The roof on the **Leas toilet block** was to be replaced imminently. Terry Buck (232) asked if **horse riders** had to pick up after their animals. There was no legal requirement as the droppings were organic and harmless. Frinton Residents' Association had advised local stables, and Mike said most riders

wanted to cooperate so as to retain the facility. Southend had already banned horses. Take registration numbers or stable details, and pass them on to TDC if byelaws are ignored.

Membership report: Robert Hughes reported that the former secretary Angela Welton had left, leaving a very tidy account. Twenty new members joined during the year, and only two had left. The association has 783 members. Robert asked everyone to update email addresses, and to stick a membership sticker on your hut to promote the association.

Treasurer's report: Robert, again, said increased security patrols and provision and maintenance of six rafts had reduced the association's balance, but it is still in a healthy state. The accounts are posted on the website. Wendy Cunningham (286) asked why there was no merchandising credit, and was told that there were plans to produce more bags, mugs and other items. The accounts were proposed and seconded by Malcolm Foster and Wendy Cunningham.

Damage report: Philip Thornton's report is available on our website. He thanked Hedley Missen, Anne Humphrey and Michael Chaplin for their work collating reports, and thanked Hedley, who has retired after almost ten years and 600 incidents! Hedley was also thanked by chairman Peter, and presented with a gift for his service. Daphne West, committee member and widow of the association's founder member, Ray, is to take over his patch. Philip thanked the team of patrollers, and asked for more volunteers to patrol the beach huts, as new recruits were necessary and always welcome. Please contact pgthornton@lineone.net if you feel you can help.

Any other business:

- **Name.** As AFBHO sounded a bit like ASBO, it had been agreed to informally rename the association 'Frinton Beach Hut Association'.
- **TDC's website:** information about toilet opening times has been corrected.
- **Big Day Out.** Time to decorate your huts and join our celebration! Committee members Hayley Hill and Steve Cole, supported by Tendring District Council, are organising a free beach hut celebration day on behalf of the association. It will be held on July 26, from 10am to 2pm on the greensward by the Connaught Avenue toilets. Attractions will include a bouncy lifeboat, live music, mini sports day, art and craft, a reading corner, health checks, dental demonstration, the RNLI, the fire service, coastguards, first aid demonstration, Community Guard, and the chance to buy mugs, bags and other promotional items. Bring everyone along, but PS it is weather dependent!

The meeting closed at 11.45pm. The date of the next AMM will be posted on the website. Invitations will be sent by email unless postage has been requested.

[Sue Totham 01206 503396](tel:01206503396), suetotham@sky.com