

Minutes of Hayle Disturbance Action Group meeting @ RSPB office, Marazion, 20th January 2011.

Present: David Flumm (RSPB) **DF**
Paul Freestone PC6427 (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) **PF**
Andrew McDouall (NE) **AM**

Apologies: Jenny Parker (RSPB) **JP**
Sgt Simon Dobson (Devon & Cornwall Constabulary) **SD**
Simon Toms (EA) **ST**
Peter Haddock (Deputy Harbourmaster, Hayle Harbour) **PH**

Update of actions from the last meeting 25th November 2009

1. Amendments to the draft Hayle Estuary enforcement protocol made by **AM**. Some of the harbour bylaws had been omitted from annex 1, Relevant Legislation. **ST** suggested additional information on fisheries be added. All agreed that a map of the SSSI and harbour limits be included.

Action: **DF** to contact **ST** for details (web-link?) of Fisheries Act, relevant byelaws and contact details.

AM to provide map of SSSI and contact **PH** for map covering harbour limits.

2. Training day for the PCSOs to now include procedures for issuing fixed penalty notices to those in breach of the Dog Control Order.

Action: **DF** to send **PF** maps of areas covered by DCO and location of signs together with information from Cornwall Council's solicitor, Sancho Brett regarding implementation procedures.

PF to arrange training of the PCSOs and confirm who will issue the fixed penalty notices.

3. RSPB involvement with future events in Hayle

Action: **JP** to liaise with **PH** regarding joint event with HHAL

4. Reporting of these meetings to HHAC. This was suggested by Wayne Adams at the November meeting but this hasn't been done yet. It was agreed today this should be done to keep members of the HHAC up to date with developments.

Action: **DF** to send Minutes to Cath Empsom @ Cornwall Council for next HHAC meeting April 2011.

5. Dog Control Order. **DF** reported that Cornwall Council had approved the introduction of a DCO, specifically Schedule 4: Dogs Exclusion Order to cover those parts of the SSSI (not all) most vulnerable to disturbance. RSPB had been asked to obtain evidence of the scale of the problem and had logged 262 disturbances 1st April 2009 – 31st March 2010 and 176 (67%) of these were dog-related. Following public consultation, the Council received 18 letters of objection but an overwhelming 109 in support and the Order was approved in November 2010.

Action: **DF** is maintaining contact with Sancho Brett, Dave Simpson & Tim Wood @ Cornwall Council and following an on-site meeting, 16 notices advertising the DCO will be placed at strategic points around the estuary later this month and the DCO will come into effect 28-days later.

PF to send Sancho a list of named officers who could issue the fixed penalty notices.

6. Fishery issues. At the November 2009 meeting, **ST** stated that there has been an increase in incidents of illegal netting and requested that HHAL and RSPB be vigilant. **ST** also requested that all illegal fishing incidents be reported to him in future.

Action: **PF** reported today he knew of an illegal netting operation just before Christmas 2010. **PF** to send details to **ST**.

Post-meeting: EA took a successful prosecution against Mr S. Beere (spelling?) 27th Jan.2011 who had set nets in Copperhouse in July 2010. Mr SB pleaded guilty and was given an 18-month (conditional discharge) sentence and fined £200 plus costs. EA have since destroyed Mr SB's nets which they confiscated at the time.

7. Contact with angling clubs/bait shops. It was agreed a notice/poster be sent to these to inform them that it is illegal to dig for bait at Hayle Estuary, except within the harbour.

Action: **ST** to send **DF** a list of local angling clubs.

DF to inform these of the relevant Hayle Harbour byelaw (56e).

8. Clarification of areas for anglers. There is some confusion where anglers can and cannot fish at Hayle. **DF** said RSPB do not have an issue with these unless they step out onto the mud (most do not) to fish when they would then cause disturbance.

Action: **DF** to liaise with **PH** and **ST** to define a zone(s) for this activity.

Post-meeting: PH has supplied a map showing areas for angling/no angling.

Dave Flumm, 21st January 2011

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