

Wembury MCA Advisory Group (WAG)

Minutes of the AGM held on 21 November 2019 at

The Marine Biological Association Laboratory

The Laboratory, Citadel Hill, Plymouth, PL1 2PB

Present:

Name	Initials	Representing
Paul Naylor	PN	WAG - Chair
John Hepburn	JH	WAG - Sec
Keith Hiscock	KH	Marine Biological Association (MBA)/WAG – Vice Chair
Roger Swinfen	RS	WAG – Committee
Jack Sewell	JS	MBA/WAG - Committee
Nigel Mortimer	NM	South Devon Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (SDAONB)
Coral Smith	CS	Devon Wildlife Trust (DWT)/WMC
Teresa Naylor	TN	WAG
Sally Sharrock	SS	WAG
Patrick Knight	PK	PCC/WAG
Douglas Herdson	DH	WAG
Barbara Swinfen	BS	WAG
Lorna Sherriff	LS	National Trust

Item	Discussion (action items in bold)	Action
1. Apologies for absence	Cat Andrews (CA) Bob Hone (BH) Phil Pascoe (PP) Angie Gall (AG) John Williams	
2. Minutes of last meeting	KH clarified the comments on the National Marine Park and the minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the last meeting with no dissent. Proposed by TN, seconded CS. This and other documents are in a Wakelet collection at https://wke.lt/w/s/PYol69 .	
3. Matters arising.	Engage local MPs (continues from last year) (All). Gary Streeter visited the marine centre on two occasions. PN discussed marine life with Luke Pollard at MBA events. Ongoing. The 2019 Bioblitz at Wembury had been an outstanding success with national TV coverage, which TN said had been appreciated by the village. More details in the wardens report in the Dropbox folder. LS reported that the next contract to operate the shop would include a ban on selling fishing nets . Ongoing TN is setting up a programme to monitor the giant goby population and has applied for a licence. Ongoing. JH had implemented a programme of evening talks . Trying the village hall as a venue to see if it would stimulate demand was suggested, along with additional publicity in the Wembury Review, DWT's events programme and social media. Ongoing. PCC has launched its "declaration of intent" to create UK's first	All LS TN JH

	<p>National Marine Park, part of which was the MBA'S "Sea in the Park" series of public engagement events. Next steps include a series of large workshops to engage stakeholders in dialogue. The Environment Secretary has endorsed the initiative, which is mentioned in the recent National Parks review. It was considered that getting it right first time was important and there was concern that lessons from the Finding Sanctuary project might not be applied in setting up the process and taking account of scientific data. Ongoing.</p>	All
4. Chairman's Report.	<p>PN thanked the Marine Centre for its great work and support of the group's aims. Aims for 2020 are to: Support Wembury Marine Centre, e.g. with Parish Funding, and provision of goby traps, litter pickers, leaflets in support of the CoC etc. More and wider engagement Evening talks, including student presentations Support IFCA developments in helping the Wembury MCA Produce a Code of Conduct He reported that the Group had responded to a number of consultation requests. Responses will be sent to the full mailing list. He proposed that the committee should be more diverse, and JS suggested that TN and SS be co-opted to the committee. They were elected, see item 13. He thanked JH for organising talks. JH will submit an article for the review about the Group and invite more villagers to join the mailing list. There will be more committee meetings to discuss further consultations, events etc. JH to investigate Wembury Village Hall for next AGM Members were invited to suggest ideas for a new logo to JS (an improved digital file is needed in any case). Consultations on hand-working byelaws and diving regulations are due to be held by Devon and Severn IFCA in 2020. These could lead to positive developments for the Wembury MCA so it is important that WAG respond strongly.. PN reported that he had applied to join the IFCA; he did not believe this represented a clash of interest. (PMN: His application was unsuccessful). DH queried whether the wrasse fishery was sustainable. PN noted the fishery was of concern but felt that the IFCA was keeping as good a track of effort and catches as possible and should be prepared to act if the evidence showed the catch was unsustainable. A report of 2019 catches will be available soon and, from comments at TECF, it appears there was a reduction in fishing effort for wrasse this year due to the poor weather. NM pointed out that the application for the additional radar aerial at Wembury Point was likely to succeed and that funding for local environmental enhancements might be available. (PMN: comments on the application are at http://apps.westdevon.gov.uk/PlanningSearchMVC/Home/Details/193612) Plymouth City Council has implemented a recreational impact levy to</p>	<p>PN/JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>PN/JH</p> <p>JH</p> <p>All/JS</p>

	<p>support managing marine recreational activities; it is hoped that similar measures will be adopted for Wembury Bay and the R Yealm.</p> <p>A Code of Conduct for the Marine Conservation Area has been drafted by PN and CS. Its aim is to show what the MCA means, by detailing what the legal limits on activities are, and on what additional voluntary restraint we would like to see users exercise. The next step is to ask relevant authorities and land owners ('fact-checkers') to confirm the correctness of the legal limits before much wider consultation on the CoC. PN will check if WAG committee members wish to comment on the draft CoC or meet to discuss it before it goes to the 'fact-checkers'. (PMN: this was done and an amended draft was sent to 'fact-checkers' on 9 December, asking for comments by 10 January)</p>	PN/JH
5. Treasurer's Report	Expenditure in the year of £80.62 exceeded income from talks by £39.76. The current balance stands at £1,757.54. There are therefore funds available for venue hire. See accounts below at Appendix 1.	
6. Warden's Report.	CS presented the Centre's performance against its targets, all of which had been exceeded. The University's support of £5K annually remains uncertain. The centre was now a BSAC snorkelling centre, and had run courses as well as snorkel safaris which had proved popular. Public feedback had been good.	
7. Natural England (NE) Report	NE was not represented but sent a report on Priority issues in the EMS monitoring of the EMS and MCZ. KH had asked AG for further details and will report if there is anything of concern.	
8. SDAONB Report	NM reported that the rise in declarations of a "Climate Emergency" by councils had increased the focus on habitats. There had been oyster surveys, especially in the R Yealm, and some native oysters had been found. Some new seagrass coverage in the Erme and Salcombe might have been found. Consultations on the South West Marine Plans are due soon. Those on the South West River Basin District are due to complete in April 2020. The Environment Agency has an environmental incident hotline - 0800 807060.	
9. National Trust (NT) Report	<p>With the sea level rising and increased storms likely the future of the NT buildings at Wembury Beach will be considered as part of a review of the infrastructure on the whole of the Wembury Peninsula.</p> <p>NT hopes to see some provision of toilet facilities at the beach in spite of SHDC's intention to close them.</p> <p>Bathing water quality is now excellent. The EA found 10 'missed connections' during its survey of drainage and sewerage in Wembury.</p> <p>The NT is planning for its 125th anniversary next year. As yet nothing is planned for Wembury.</p> <p>LS hopes to continue the sport pop-up events next year.</p>	
10. Talks and activities 2020	JH suggested the programme at Appendix 2 which has been updated since the meeting, and requested further suggestions for talks. JS offered to review what other current projects in the MBA might be relevant to Wembury.	JH/JS
11. Election of Officers.	CS proposed, with JS seconding that the officers and committee should be elected en bloc, agreed unanimously. As all current officers and committee, and TN and SS were willing to stand, they were unanimously elected.	

	Chairman PN Vice Chairman KH Secretary JH Treasurer PP Committee members RS, JS, TN, SS	
12. DONM.	EGM to discuss Code of Conduct and other matters arriving DTBD AGM Thursday 19 or 26 (dependent on availability of Wembury Village Hall and the date of the MBA AGM) November 2019, 1830 - 2030. KH will book MBA if required.	PN/JH /KH

Appendix 1

Wembury Marine Conservation Area Advisory Group - Accounts 2019

Date	Item	Income £	Item	Outgoings £	Balance
22/11/2018	Balance, Santander A/c				1753.94
	Cash in Hand				43.36
	Total at 2018 AGM				1797.30
03/03/2019			Travelling Expense CWT Conf.	22.50	
11/04/2019	Surplus from talk	20.66			
09/05/2019	Donations from talk	17.70	Refreshments	2.46	
13/06/2019	Student Talks	2.50	Cost of prizes (Mugs)	14.68	
26/06/2019			Handbook of Marine Fauna for Marine Centre	40.98	
21/11/2019	Totals	40.86		80.62	
	Surplus/Deficit	-39.76			
	Santander A/c				1714.18
	Cash in Hand				43.36
	Balance at 2019 AGM				1757.54

Appendix 2

Talks and activities 2020 - Outline

Jan

Feb Volunteers RPR

Mar

Apr 3 South West Marine Ecosystems Conference at UofP

May

Jun 12 World Oceans Day event, Firestone Bay

3 & 4 or 10 & 11 (tbc) Marine Institute student graduation presentations (inc
MRes,& PhD)

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct Volunteers RPR (Wembury Point)

Nov 21 AGM

Dec Volunteers' social event

Other Possible topics

Plankton evening(s?) (Dave Conway?)

Joint day with MBA

Bioblitz Review (JS)

Beginners guide to Wembury Shore

Kelp research at Wembury (Dan Smale (MBA))

CPRE (Devon) (Penny Mills)

Ocean Literacy and Sail Training (JH)