

# Winter News 2024/25



*Peaceful bay view from Canford Cliffs in January*

## **Autumn General Meeting - a summary**

Thirty two members attended our meeting at St Aldhelm's Church Hall in November. We were pleased to welcome BCP portfolio holders Councillor Richard Herrett (Destination, Leisure and Tourism) and Councillor Mike Cox (Finance) pictured below.



Cllr Cox explained that in May 2023 when the Three Towns Alliance administration was elected, they inherited a £36 million budget deficit and the council had been run on reserves. During his first year in office his focus was to re-engineer the budget for the four years of the medium term plan. However, further pressures have arisen partly due to the government's budget national insurance increases and minimum wage rises in addition to huge demands on the Educational Special Needs budget.

At the time of the meeting, the budget was stable but there remained a clamp on all but essential spending.

Questions from the floor included the instability of the cliffs, inadequate standards of toilets at Branksome Dene Chine; misuse of Beryl bikes and sand covered disabled parking bays at Branksome Chine.

Minutes of the meeting can be found on the PBHA website [www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk](http://www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk)

A new year and another rent increase for BCP beach hut tenants. This year we can expect a 5% increase in our annual rents in line with the five year plan devised by the previous administration.

In November we hosted an autumn meeting and appreciated the attendance of Councillors Richard Herrett and Mike Cox who responded to members' questions and updated us on BCP's financial situation which although stabilised still faces many challenges.

It remains to be seen if many more members relinquish their tenancies as this additional rent rise could be too prohibitive.

Budget proposals go before Full Council in February.

We will keep you apprised of news and updates as they occur.

Visit

[www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk](http://www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk)

Bob Lister, Chairman

tel: 07980 928752 or email

[bob@sunwiser.co.uk](mailto:bob@sunwiser.co.uk)

## Saltwater Sauna, Sandbanks Beach



The popularity of wild water swimming has been continually growing and the sauna facility based at Sandbanks Beach, now in its third year of operation, has developed a huge following among local residents enjoying the benefits of hot and cold contrast therapy.

In January I met with Co-founder, Sam Glyn-Jones to find out more. We chatted over coffee and I asked how it all started.

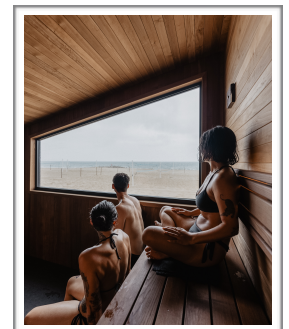


So it transpired that Sam, originally from Windsor, studied at Bournemouth University and fell in love with the area. He later met his wife Arlene, from Finland, who introduced him to sauna culture and from there a business idea developed. Sam said: "I credit Arlene with being the inspiration behind the business, she is our Director & Brand Manager and in 2021 with £7,000 of crowdfunding, we opened our first beachfront sauna at Sandbanks beach."

While at university, Sam became an enthusiastic surfer and began organising beach-based activities for fellow students. Through these events he was aware that some students were struggling with emotional and mental health issues but were benefitting by the connection with nature and outdoor life. From there he set up a charitable community interest group, Resurface Therapy, and he believes that social prescribing can significantly support other means of therapy. His PhD course in 2018 focused on 32 students who benefited from surf therapy and beach yoga and he is keen to develop referrals for those with similar issues to the natural health boost of a sauna experience.

Sam works at Bournemouth University as Events Manager, a position he holds with a team of staff delivering a range of activities for the student community. Meanwhile, the Sandbanks site was procured, followed recently by a multi sauna site at Avon beach and the latest offering at Lulworth Cove. But Sam's aspirations do not stop there. He said: "We are actively seeking further investment to eventually open a 'bathhouse' style facility which is tremendously popular in Scandinavian & Nordic countries but lacking here in the UK." In the meantime, plans are afoot for an additional unit at Sandbanks.

The Saltwater Sauna at Sandbanks offers a choice of booking options ... private hire for up to ten people; communal sessions for up to six people with individuals booking a slot; and also guided sessions with a sauna master offering a full range of Nordic treatments. Sam said: "Currently, all our sessions are fully booked with enthusiastic feedback from customers who frequently remark about the dopamine hit they get from contrast hot and cold water therapy and regularly come back for more."



Sam literally has his hands full at the moment, as well as the demands of a flourishing start-up business, he is also Dad to Alana, his five month old baby daughter. "Never a dull moment" he said "But I wouldn't have it any other way!"

## Julie Snow



For more information visit: [thesaltwatersauna.com](https://thesaltwatersauna.com)

## News from the committee

The committee met in February and members were disappointed but not surprised that annual rent will be raised by 5% this year. Budget pressures mean BCP has to raise income from all possible revenue streams in order to balance the budget for essential services. Full Council in February will likely approve the budget for 2025/26. We are aware this will be repeated next year as the final year of the former administration's five year plan. Members are concerned what might happen in subsequent years.

Sadly, our Social Secretary Lizzie Manetta has announced her decision to step down from the committee so we no longer have anyone who can deliver a summer social barbecue. It is disappointing but we are grateful for those who have previously supported the event including Yvonne Hartwell for many years. Members hope to recruit a new social secretary at the AGM and in addition we still need a Secretary as currently those duties are being shared by other committee members.

Tony Mullins, our Treasurer advised that annual subscriptions are now due for 2025. £5 is a nominal fee for members to be kept regularly informed of news from BCP regarding their tenancies. Currently membership is down to only 106 fully paid up beach hut tenants.

## Rockwater Sandbanks



Still a long way to go!



CGI image of the new proposed restaurant



**Summer Social event in doubt this year unless we can successfully recruit a social secretary to our committee.**

**Please think about volunteering - If someone does step up then we hope to meet again in June for another BBQ at Branksome Dene Room.**



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An Annual General Meeting is to be held on 4th March 2025 at 7pm

East Dorset Lawn Tennis Club, Salterns Road, Poole.

Refreshments are available at the venue.

Guest speakers from BCP will be invited to speak and take your questions.

We look forward to welcoming as many members as possible.

**If anyone would like to serve on the committee next year please let me know. We are URGENTLY seeking to elect a new Secretary and Social Secretary.**

Bob Lister  
Chairman  
Bob@sunwiser.co.uk

## Annual subscriptions for 2025 are now due

Our treasurer Tony Mullins would like to remind members that your £5 subs are now due to renew your annual membership.



Please contact Tony by email [tmullins196@gmail.com](mailto:tmullins196@gmail.com) with your name, home address, most importantly your hut number and location and your email address.

Then please make a BACS transfer to our account with Lloyds Bank or alternatively send a cheque made payable to Poole Beach Huts Association. New members are always welcomed so please encourage new and neighbouring tenants to join us.

Sort Code: 775024 Account No. : 32480860.

For more information about the Association visit [www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk](http://www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk) or contact

Chairman, Bob Lister 07980 928 752 or email [bob@sunwiser.co.uk](mailto:bob@sunwiser.co.uk)

