

Autumn News 2025



November rainbow over Poole Bay

A summary of the Autumn Meeting



The forum meeting was held on 4th November at East Dorset Lawn Tennis Club. Bob welcomed BCP officers, Jacqueline Wood, Seafront Visitor Services Manager and Andy Wood, Seafront Operations Manager and Councillor Richard Herrett, portfolio holder with responsibility for the seafront and tourism, pictured left.

In his Chairman's report, Bob questioned how beach hut rents might be raised beyond next year's planned 5% increase. The previous administration proposed a five year plan in which 2026 is the final year. He shared members' views that more of beach hut rental income should be ring fenced to fund ongoing maintenance and seafront improvements.

Guests were introduced ...

Jacqueline Wood confirmed that the waiting list is now aligned across BCP allowing Poole residents to apply for a Bournemouth hut and vice versa. Three offers of huts are now made to applicants and refusal no longer involves a move to the bottom of the list. When questioned about empty huts she explained that sometimes four to five offers are made before huts are accepted which can take time. All full term huts are currently let, 92 keys were relinquished last year.

Andy Wood explained his role having responsibility for all areas of beach management of BCP's entire seafront. He supervises 12 seasonal rangers plus senior rangers. He answered questions about damaged water dispensers, explaining that they were originally supplied by a third party but have not withstood inclement seafront conditions. They will be prioritised for removal and replaced by new taps in due course. He reported that 50 huts have been refurbished this year.

He recommended that reports of beach hut and seafront issues should be emailed to seafrontadmin@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Well for once we really can't complain about the weather this summer with an extra bonus of many warm autumn days. I do hope members have made the most of the gorgeous sunshine to enjoy their beach huts this year.

BCP is still facing financial difficulties so we can expect another 5% increase in our rent next year, being the final year of the five year plan devised by the previous administration.

It remains to be seen what 2027 will bring!

Some controversial decisions regarding BCP have been creating headlines recently.

Our portfolio holder, Cllr Richard Herrett was asked about these at our Autumn meeting in November as well as other subjects including the perennial issue of beach hut rents.

Keep up to date at www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk

Bob Lister, Chairman

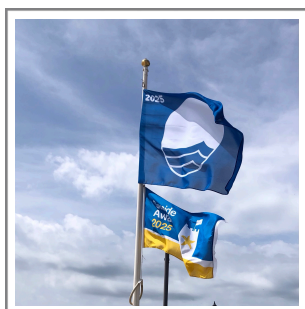
tel: 07980 928752 or email bob@sunwiser.co.uk



Cllr Richard Herrett explained that BCP currently has a statutory spend freeze on all but essential costs due to the budgetary challenge of the Special Educational Needs (SEND) deficit of £180million while awaiting support from government for this specific budget. Meanwhile, interest is accruing at £9million a year.

He explained the issue of illegal parking during the peak summer period resulted in representation to government to request an increase in parking fees to act as a deterrent. A temporary measure was granted which enabled BCP to impose double the normal rate of £35 (for prompt payment) during August. A report of the results of this 'experiment' will be presented to government with the hope that a permanent increase can be imposed in future.

When asked about news of a proposed closure of Bournemouth Tourist Information Centre at Pier Approach, he replied that the potential of all BCP commercial property must be explored but insisted that the role of the TIC is valued and the service would be relocated to a suitable location if a commercial operator moved into the existing site.



When asked about the future of the Blue Flag scheme, he reported that after discussions with Planning, agreement was reached enabling sponsors to be acknowledged on future signage and current local business sponsors would be approached to consider their continued support.

Cllr Herrett welcomed future enquiries to his email address - richardherrett@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Questions/comment from the floor included ...

Q. Motorised bikes are a danger on the seafront, they go too fast and are a serious risk to children and other pedestrians.

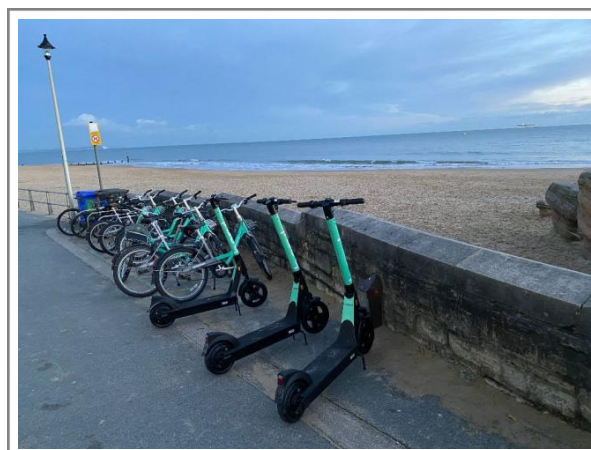
A. Six staff members were assaulted this year challenging illegal bike riders despite all rangers wearing body worn cameras this year. Police have more authority to prosecute but rarely have capacity to attend.

Q. Brambles and overgrown vegetation continue to cover handrails at Branksome Chine, this complaint was raised last year, when will it be dealt with?

A. There are only four full time staff covering the seafront and only two on gardening team. Assurance was given it would be attended to.

Q. Beryl Bikes and scooters are often misused.

A. Hirers must submit a driving licence in order to release the bike, please report underage or inappropriate use to Beryl. (Bob responded he has made hundreds of reports to no avail).



The minutes of this meeting can be found at poolebeachhuts.co.uk



Safety improvements at Branksome Chine

Ongoing work to improve safety in front of huts at Branksome Chine is planned for completion by the end of February 2026.

Out of action

Two of the public BBQ units are out of order likely due to being uncovered and unprotected from the elements.



New dog washing facility at Branksome Chine for pampered poodles



Rockwater Sandbanks - November update

After significant delay it does seem that the new restaurant is finally taking shape and looks to be glazed with internal construction underway. The former beach cafe appears to have a new roof. The Echo reports a spring opening date is planned.



We still have a vacancy on our committee for a minute secretary. If you have the relevant skills please consider joining our committee. We meet every couple of months and our aim is to represent our members and to raise issues of concern to BCP officers/members as appropriate and to keep members informed of council and committee news with our quarterly newsletters.

Our AGM will be held in the spring, date to be announced, when committee appointments are confirmed.

We'd love to have you on board!

Improving communications

It is important that any changes to members' email addresses must be notified to our treasurer Tony Mullins - tmullins196@gmail.com or important news could be missed.

Any new members need to supply emails in order to be added to our mailing list and keep regularly informed of all PBHA actions and updates.

Useful email addresses for beach related issues ...

seafrofrontadmin@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or richard.herrett@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

A reminder from our Treasurer

Tony Mullins, our treasurer, has asked for those members who have not yet renewed their annual subscriptions to kindly pay £5 by bank transfer to Lloyds Bank - Sort Code: 775024 Account: 32480860.

In addition, please contact Tony at tmullins196@gmail.com with your name, address and hut number and if necessary to arrange a cheque payment.

Your continued support will ensure the association's ability to support and inform members on matters relating to your beach hut tenancy.

For more information about the Association visit www.poolebeachhuts.co.uk or contact

Chairman, Bob Lister 07980 928 752 or email bob@sunwiser.co.uk

