



Seaford Town Council

Minutes of the Seaford Beach Users Group

Thursday 12th March 2026 at 10:00 AM

Held at Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG

Attendees:

Sharan Brydon (SB) (Chair) – Assets & Project Manager, Seaford Town Council

Cllr. James Meek, Seaford Town Council

James Webb (JW) – FCRM Advisor - Ouse and Pevensey Asset Performance Team,
Environment Agency

Ellen Miller (EM) – Coastal and Flood Risk, Lewes District Council

Gary Milan (GM) – Safety, Health, Environment & Operations Manager, Newhaven Port

Louise Dickson (Minute Taker) – Projects & Facilities Administrator, STC

Apologies:

Peter Gwilliam – Seaford Lifeguards.

Absent:

Dan Sargent, Environment Agency (EA)

Minutes of Meeting

1. Introduction

Introductions around the room.

Announcement

These Minutes will be published on the **Seaford Town Council website** once approved.

3. Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

Promenade Repairs

Contact has been made with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding repairs to the promenade. Potential funding opportunities from the EA are available in the autumn.

Cllr James Meak asked why the repair to the hole on the promenade had taken some time. SB explained this was due to staff resources, budget limitations and the need to obtain quotes.

Seaford Beach Safety Signs

Safety signage along the seafront will be replaced like-for-like and will include What3Words locations. Bathing water quality signs will remain unchanged and must be displayed from May. Replacement of signs will take place once shingle recycling works are completed.

Anti-Social Behavior

Concerns were raised regarding incidents last year involving large groups camping on the beach and fishing from the pier for extended periods. These groups reportedly left rubbish and used the area inappropriately.

The issue is now being considered under modern slavery concerns. A Modern Slavery Task Force will gather intelligence over the coming months, with involvement from police in Hastings. IFCA (Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority) are also interested in being involved.

Additional measures include installation of new CCTV and other preventative actions. Lisa Lewis, a modern slavery specialist, is supporting the initiative.

Storm Drain Maintenance

Storm drains on the seafront had not been cleared for nearly two years. Balfour Beatty have now agreed to undertake the clearance works after initially declining.

A repair to the leaning wall along Seaford Promenade will be referred to East Sussex Highways.

4. Updates

4.1 James Webb-Environmental Agency

The shingle recycling works are nearing completion, with final clean-up expected before Easter. Phase 1 works may resume early in the autumn to build up the beach nearer Splash Point. SB mentioned that the accessible ramp will be put down after the works were completed and requested that the sandpit at Frankies café to be put back in.

4.2 Ellen Miller-Coastal and Flood Risk

Splash Point Monitoring

The monitoring of Splash Point is ongoing and may require further work in the future.

Staffing

Following Tim Bartlett's retirement, the role has not yet been filled. Support may be sought from Hastings.

Beach Safety

Buoys will be installed ahead of the season.

Containers on Beach

Thanks were extended to Seaford Town Council for their assistance in dealing with the containers washed up on the beach. A debrief on the clean-up operation will take place shortly.

SB enquired about the *Dog Bylaw* as there has been some confusion regarding the current regulations (dogs are not permitted in certain areas of the beach unless kept on a lead between 1 May and 30 September), as well as the placement and wording of the flags. The flags were removed at the start of last season and have not yet been reinstated.

4.3 Gary Milan-Newhaven Port:

- Improvement works are ongoing at the port. The fishing stage is expected to be completed by the end of May.
- The watchtower near the East Pier is being considered for use as an entertainment space.
- A cruise ship is scheduled to dock in April.
- There are also plans to promote the surrounding local areas in partnership with WAVES, who organised the Dieppe anniversary events. SB will be added to this promotional group.

5. Seaford Town Council Updates

- **Hope Gap Steps**

Councilors will review options at the next Full Council meeting to consider possible structures or solutions.

- **Seafront Bins**

Bin provision along the seafront will be reviewed due to increased demand during the summer months. Big Belly bins have been considered, although Lewes District Council are currently unable to service them at the moment.

- **West View Beach Huts (WVBH)**

The huts will be placed on the promenade from April, including provision for two WCs and a concession.

- **Lifeguards**

Cllr James Meek updated the group that a request for new accommodation was not approved by council. However, last year the Town Council provided a beach hut and installed water and electricity, although this facility has not yet been used due to a shortage of volunteers. The Town Clerk has since met with the Chamber of Commerce, who are supportive of the lifeguards, and further discussions are planned.

6. Any Other Business

JW raised concerns regarding safety around the sauna concession, particularly in relation to beach vehicles operating nearby and the cost to the taxpayer of having an on-site safety guard to oversee sauna users. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with the concession operator to discuss safety measures and ensure users are made aware of vehicle movements.

Next Meeting

- Thursday 24th September 2026 at 10:00 AM.

Disclaimer: These minutes are a summary of discussions and decisions made during the meeting. They **do not record every word that was spoken during the meeting**. Any corrections or amendments should be submitted to the minute taker before the next meeting for approval.