SHALDON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Beach Committee
held in the Methodist Hall at 7 pm on Wednesday 18 March 2026.

Committee: Cllr Danielle Westlake (DWest), Cllr Andy Burnham (AB), Cllr Jo Cumbley (JC), Cllr Claire Stoyle (CS), Cllr Lucy Bufton (LB), Cllr Chris Clarance (CC), Kirstie Johnson (KJ), Denise (DB) & Roger Bufton (RB) and Francis Biro (FB).

Also attending: Nickie Hamblin (Clerk) .

As the first tier of local government representing Shaldon we can influence decisions for the benefit of the residents we serve and are mindful that we are entrusted to act in its best interests.

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR MEETING**. It was decided Chair for all meetings would be CC proposed: CS and Seconded: RB and **agreed unanimously.**

2. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:** for absence received prior to the meeting these are to be noted and agreed. **Cllr Andy Burnham - Agreed**.

3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:** acknowledgement of any such interests received for any part of the agenda or any request for dispensation made prior to the meeting to the Clerk**. It was agreed** that the Clerk would provide applications for dispensations which would be sent to those on the committee in the sailing club, to complete. The Clerk would then consider the applications and if granted it would mean that those individuals could vote on matters pertaining to the sailing club at the Committee meeting.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** Members of the public to raise questions or make comment regarding any other activity, new or ongoing within the community. ***(5 minutes per person/question)-None no-one attended.***

5. **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE COMMITTEE.** To discuss and decide on the purpose of the Committee, confirm the members and frequency of the meetings.

   The Terms of Reference were read out by CC and **agreed** with one addition - a map of the area. Clerk will attach to the TORs. This would then be put forward under Agenda item 14 for full Council to approve.

6. **1 APRIL & A-BOARDS**. To discuss and decide responsibilities for ensuring dog signs are put back at the entrances to the beach.

   It was agreed that signage has to be put out by 1 April and RP agreed that he would do this with DW. The signs are to go at Clipper Quay, Manor Slip and the Ferry Shelter.

   The steps at the seaward end of the main Shaldon Beach are blocked off due to the beach movement after the storms, which will cause a problem, when dogs are no longer allowed on Shaldon Beach, as this is the main access to the dog friendly part of the beach. Therefore, it was proposed to allow dogs to enter the dog friendly part of the beach via the small steps in the middle of the promenade which is not far from the above seaward steps. As the dog friendly areas are set by TDC **it was agreed** that the Clerk would speak to Resorts at TDC to discuss this option with them. If TDC agree and it is approved at the full Council meeting then CC would

7. **WATER QUALITY SIGNS.** To discuss and decide the process for ensuring the digital display is re-started and who will be responsible for issuing additional signs (laminated) when the Council is advised that bathing waters are not fit for swimmers. LB agreed to continue to put up signs when necessary and to let the Clerk know, if LB is not available, who she should contact in her absence. Clerk to print off the notices and pass on to LB. RP and DW agreed to put the fuse back in the digital sign in readiness for 1 May.

8. **LITTER SWEEP.** To discuss and decide whether weekly sweeps are required (on a Monday) during the main holiday period and confirm start and end dates.

Litter Issue at Ferry Boat

CS will speak with the Ferry Boat Landlord regarding litter being placed on the far side of the wall.

Seasonal Litter Sweep Proposal

A weekly DW-led litter sweep was proposed for the main holiday season on a Monday at 9 am, running from the Monday after Whit half-term until early September**,** 9:00 a.m. The meeting point would be the Ferry Shelter. Gloves grabbers and black bin bags are provided. Agreed unanimously.

Publicity on BBQ Bin Usage

A communication will be posted on Facebook encouraging proper disposal of BBQ waste together with an ongoing beach etiquette (bi-weekly) campaign to cover
dogs, and general litter disposal i.e.. *Take your litter home or put in the bins provided*.

9. **BEACH CLEAN 11 MARCH 2026.** To discuss recent clear up and decide when the next main beach clean will be held. Harbour Commission trying to get some grant support to be able to sure up the training wall some survey.

Beach Improvements, the Point & Funding

RP explained that until the work has been done to 'sure up' the point to put anything back in the area where the beach has been lost will be pointless as it won't be protected. The Harbour Commission are in discussion with the various parties to do some work on the point and provide further fortification thus helping Shaldon Beach. However, at present the funding is lacking and grants have been applied for. If work is undertaken it is unlikely to be before the Summer as any action is dependent on securing funding. If major works do not take place the Harbour Commission may be able to do some running repairs.

On Shaldon Beach TDC have advised that it will repair the foundations of the flood defence walls but will not put any sand etc back in the areas that have been lost. Clerk referred to the information that she had previously sent round, from the last TDC meeting, which answered a question that was raised about this.

Therefore, any further moving of sand for the time will be put on hold. However, it was proposed that for the May beach clear up that the top of the shelf is scraped up which are mainly stones and deposited down at the foot of the seaward end steps with the aim to restore

access to the beach from this end of the beach. The suggestion was to make it 2ft of stones.

This would also flatten the shelf that is currently there so that boats can be taken from the top of the beach down to the river. The following was agreed:

May Beach Clear Up

7 May 10:30–14:00 – Beach clean and litter pick. Clerk to contact *Peter French to confirm dates*. Bacon baps and drinks to be provided.
8 May 10:30–14:00 – Move dinghies and scrape sand levelling the beach and moving the 2ft of stones to the bottom of the seaward end steps.

Before the clear up boat owners would be advised that if their boat is full of sand then they should be dug out beforehand. A call out for volunteers would be on social media in advance of the clear up.

10. **DINGHY SPACES LOST IN THE STORM.** To discuss feedback given from TDC with regard to the Beach Management Plan and what can be done about the loss of part of the beach in the storms. To recommend to full council a way forward for those dinghy spaces lost due to recent storms. **Agreed to review in 3 months' time.** Thank you to the Sailing Club for allowing owners to put their boats there.

11. **BOAT SPACES.** Update on how many users have yet to pay their fees. All seine boats and racks have now paid fees and 63/84 dinghy owners paid. The owners who have not paid have already been sent reminders and given to 27 March to pay. It was stated in letter if not paid by then abandonment notices may be placed on their boats.

12. **KAYAK RACKS –** To discuss and decide if any improvements are to be recommended to full council. **It was agreed** to create 13 more spaces on the rack site with capacity for 10 paddleboards. It would involve moving some of the dinghies that are currently in situ to the other side of the rack. A new kayak rack would need to be purchased and the costs of such will be put forward to Full Council for approval.

13. **SAILING CLUB.** To discuss the fee structure of the sailing club with regard to the space it has allocated on the beach, as per the Beach Lease. To decide whether to recommend to full council if there should be a change to its fees in 2027. Any recommendations made should be in the best interests of fairness and parity with other boats permitted to be kept on the beach.

JC explained that under the terms of the Lease there should be a written permit agreement with the Sailing Club which was agreed and signed in 2022. Both RB and CC explained the past history of the sailing club and how it came to have that area on the beach. As a result of conversations discussing increase in costs, administration and moving boats **it was agreed** to put forward to Full Council that the sailing club be given a 30% discount on fees. The reason for the 30% discount are that the club collects all the fees and distributes the stickers (although SPC order and pay for them), the sailing club regularly weed and litter pick its area, the boats are moved 4 times a year for beach clean and other events such as the Water Carnival and Regatta and the 200-year history of the club in Shaldon. Therefore, the fee proposed should be set against whatever the current dinghy fee is at the time with the reduction of 30% so for example for 2026 year the fee would be £50 per boat. It was also proposed that the sailing club would be invoiced in the future for 40 boats. A permit agreement would also be drafted between SPC and the Sailing Club as per the lease. The sailing club members on the Committee were unable to vote but other members voted and it was agreed to put forward by a majority by those who could do so.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –** Thursday 11 June at 7 pm and at the Hub. Clerk to book the Hub.

Signed …… **Dated ……**
Cllr Chris Clarance
Chair of Beach Committee