



BEACH SAFETY PROJECT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 98/19

9 DECEMBER 2019

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with a summary of the Beach Safety Project for 2019 and to consider a recommendation to increase the Project staffing for the 2020 season.

No. DETAIL

1) THE PROJECT

- a) The Project was initiated in 2011 following the Isle of Wight Council's decision to discontinue funding for Lifeguards and their offer of £6,250 towards alternative provision of beach safety support.
- b) When the Isle of Wight Council's funding ended after the first three years the Town Council decided to include it in its annual Budget from 1 April 2014 and it has now completed its ninth year.
- c) The Project was run by our Maintenance Manager Brian Roberts supported by volunteers Davin Gibbs, Isaac Roberts, Paul Berry and Jack Wonfor.

2) ACTIVITY LEVELS

- a) The recorded incidents dealt with during the season were as shown in the following table.

RESCUES	SAFETY INCIDENTS	FIRST AID INCIDENTS	BEACH SAFETY ADVICE	DOGS ON BEACH	BBBQs/FIRES	EMERGENCY CALLOUTS
10	20	60	35	59	2	4

- b) The 60 first aid treatments included weaver fish stings, dog bites, cuts & grazes, falls, concussion, splinters, sprains; and a diabetic episode.
- c) The emergency services callouts included three missing people, one fire and one marine flare.
- d) Eight items of lost property were reported but not found and another five that were found and returned including two phones, one set of car keys, one wedding ring and 1 pair of glasses.

3) FINANCES

The project exceeded its £8,000 budget by £892

4) FUNDING FOR THE 2020 SEASON

- a) Its core staffing is provided by the Town Council's Maintenance Manager Brian Roberts whose contracted hours range from 25 a week from October to March to 45 a week for the April to September period to accommodate this project.
- b) However, as the project has developed to providing cover for eight hours a day seven days a week during most of the season his hours are insufficient and severely restrict his availability for his main role of Maintenance Manager, the demand for which has grown significantly with the extension of the Town Council's estate.

5) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to agree the employment of an additional temporary, part-time staff member for two days a week from 1 June to 30 September at a predicted cost of £2,380 at what will then be the current living wage rate.