

Pembrokeshire Outdoor Charter Group

Full Group Meeting 3/11/11 Newgale YMCA

Minutes

Present:

Rob Lewis – PCC / PCNPA
Peter Morgan – PCC / PCNPA
Sue Gurner – Red Bull
Jamie Monson – Red Bull
Ian Meopham – PCNPA
Barry Scott - H.M.Coastguard
Mark Wilkinson – Freelance
Mike Mayberry – Mayberry Kayaking
Shelly Mayberry – Mayberry Kayaking
Geraint Harries – PCNPA
Bruce Sanderson – Newsurf
Nicola Sanderson – Newsurf
Chris Jex – Pembs Adventure Centre
Jon Haylock – TYF
Jon Kellie – Preseli Venture
Alun Lewis – Freelance
Cleo Browne – Celtic Quest
Paul Bramble – Freelance
Tom Iggleden – Newgale YMCA
Oli Tuggey – The Big Blue Experience
Charles Mathieson – PCNPA
Lou Luddington – MCS
Alec Williams – Sealyham AC
Steve Quinton – Pembrokeshire College
David Jones – PCF
Rob Egelstaff - OAAS



Apologies

Rachel Eyles, Martin Leonard, Denise, Pablo Thorne, Pete Ward, Dave Perry

Minutes of last full group meeting

These were accepted as a true record

Matters arising:

Membership Criteria were discussed. It was felt that wording and criteria was still appropriate. Requirements for 'green' accreditation was relevant but it was not necessary to prescribe the exact nature of environmental standards due to changes in Green Dragon scheme etc. and wide ranging schemes such as 1% for the planet etc. Requirements for attendance at meetings and events - not felt to be crucial as long as members were involved in

the project and embracing the principles of the group. Charles Mathieson suggested that the order of the criteria could be changed so that positive points came before negative points. The group supported this idea. **Action: TL to re-order membership criteria and to try to get someone to speak to the group about green accreditation schemes at the March meeting.**

Aberiddy booking system working reasonably well. Land owner wished to thank members of the group for supporting the system. Some issues with groups from outside the area not being aware of booking system – (predictable in first year of operation).

New POCG website is up and running and more user-friendly than old version. TL is invoicing centres for £50 contributions for pins on the map. **Action: All centres to check their own details on the website and contact TL to change if necessary.**

‘High ropes’ has been removed as an activity on the website.

Centre Updates

Matt Lister (Stackpole) – Season overshadowed by tragic death of Louise Smithson in climbing accident – Louise had been a key member of POCG and the working group and contributed a lot to the group and the local outdoor industry. She will be hugely missed by all.

New centre is now operational and working well. They have now got the Platinum Eco Centre status. Sea Kayak Festival in May 2012.

Lou Luddington (Marine Conservation Society) – New legislation will create 3-4 Marine Conservation Zones in Wales which will be highly protected with no fishing etc. Consultation via “Your Seas, Your Voice” campaign, www.mcsuk.org.

Barry Scott (MCA) – Final decision on future organisation of coastguard should be at end of November. There will be no difference to cliff teams but operations room could still move. Hopefully, Milford Haven Ops room will remain.

Phil Sadler (PAC) – Various schemes going well including Adventure Training Scheme and John Muir Award.

Alec Williams (Sealyham) – Adult and adventure day bookings are up this year. Works on house delayed due to funding.

John Haylock (TYF) – Working on Environmental Education with schools and developing more environmental/sustainability into NGB leadership awards with BMC, BCU etc.

John Kellie (Preseli Venture) – Doing lots of Sea Kayaking and experiencing growth of business associated with eco-tourism.

Ian Meopham (PCNPA) – has noticed a growth in Surfing numbers and sit on top kayak use – some areas under heavy pressure at busy times (e.g. parking at Abermawr).

Geraint Harries (PCNPA) – 12km of tracks at Pantmaenog forest near Rosebush recently opened for walker, bikes and horses.

Bruce (Newsurf) – Business is up this year, would like alternatives to plastic/neoprene based surf equipment if it were affordable.

Tom Iggeden (Newgale YMCA) – Doing lots of work with youth groups including Global Youth Summer Camp.

Progress Report (Tom)

Tom has had some changes to the nature of his role due to funding and some reorganisation, now focusing on Promoting Marine Code to public rather than managing meetings with operators. Also working 1 day per week on Coastal Forum work + other short term paid roles in order to bring money into project.

Main activities since April include; new website, coasteering work shop, Aberiddy meetings, producing coasteering best practise DVD, filming ‘Adventure Guide to Britain’ with ITV, Visit Wales website photo project, WATO meetings, funding applications, Liaising with local community and coasteering companies at Ceibwr Bay. See OC Website for the full report.

Pembrokeshire Tourism Meeting – centres may be able to benefit from the Local Investment Fund (40% towards capital projects), Pems Lottery Funding (35%). Also Tourism Investment Support Scheme (25% funding towards large projects), ‘Digital Tourism Initiative’ funding for innovative use of IT in tourism development.

Some useful funding links:

Local Investment Fund:

<http://www.lifcymru.org.uk/English/LIF4/Pages/Home.aspx> - contact telephone number 01437 775795 – Peter Lord LIF Assessment Officer

Pembrokeshire Lottery:

<http://www.pembrokeshirelottery.co.uk/loan.asp>

Broadband Wales Support Scheme:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/broadbandandict/broadband/bbss/?lang=en>

Coasteering Mapping project (David Jones)

Dave showed the group the map which classifies the coast according to conservation issues for coasteering. **Action: all to check map contact TL or DJ with comments on lines, particularly Red Lines if disagreeing. www.walesactivitymapping.org.uk**

You will need to login to see the coastering layer...

Username is 'RAWG'

Password is 'password'

For assistance with the GIS website – ring David Jones on 01646 696174

Red Bull World Cliff Diving event (Sue and Jamie)

This has been pencilled in for the Blue Lagoon Abereddy 7-8 Sept 2012. Sue and Jamie have been consulting with stakeholders including the landowners, NT, CCW, PCNPA, POCG, PCC, Powell Strong etc.) The area will be affected from late August (infrastructure going in), then practise on 5-6 Sept, Competition 7-8 Sept, Contingency day 9 Sept. Removal of infrastructure 9-12 Sept.

Competition will be 1 hour either side of high tide (late morning – lunchtime). No coastering would be possible in Lagoon at these times but groups could coasteer outside Lagoon. Coast path would be moved slightly inland during event. Parking will be in field accessed via Barry Island Farm, beach car park will not be used for event. Stewards will control parking and access roads to avoid congestion. Powell Strong is being consulted about action in case seal pups are in lagoon although this is thought to be unlikely. 1,200 – 1,500 spectators expected per day. Tickets £10-15?? Aim to enable locals to be able to get tickets. It was suggested that a contribution to the Outdoor Charter Group would be reasonable in view of the fact that the event would further increase use of the site by people for cliff jumping and that this would add to the management issues that the group will have to deal with in the next few years.

Pembrokeshire Coast Recreation Plan (Charles Mathieson)

This has now been published. CM thanked POCG members for their input and suggested that Pembrokeshire was benefiting as a tourism destination from the good practise of POCG and environmentally sustainable procedures.

Date of Next meeting: Thursday March 29th 2012 venue tba.

AOB

Neptunes Army of Rubbish Cleaners (NARC) have produced 'Angling Tips' leaflets for Stackpole and Martins Haven.

Abereddy Sea Wall – part of this collapsed at north end of beach – keep groups away from this section. PCC waiting for consultation to be completed before finalising plans for re-configuring sea defences.