

# INSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

## BEACH RISK ASSESSMENT

(Re-affirmed by IPC – 15 March 2018)

### 1. Introduction: -

- 1) Instow Parish Council leases parts of the Instow foreshore, comprising the pink areas on the annexed plan, from The Crown Estate Commissioners.
- 2) The period of this lease is from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2034.
- 3) As tenants of these parts of Instow Sands, Instow Parish Council acknowledges it has a legal and moral responsibility to perform a risk assessment of the leased sands on an annual basis, adopt a policy of action to minimise those risks and take proactive action as and when necessary on a specific needs basis.
- 4) Instow Parish Council further acknowledges that, as the parish authority for the area that includes the beach, it has a responsibility for beach management, including risk assessment, for those parts of Instow sands that lie between and beyond those parts that are leased.

### 2. The Risks Identified: -

- 1) In a recent risk assessment of the relevant parts of Instow Sands it was recognised that the risks of relevance consisted of: -
  - i) Tides
  - ii) Currents
  - iii) Soft and Uneven Sand
  - iv) Broken glass
  - v) Jagged Metal such as tins
  - vi) Flotsam and jetsam
  - vii) Dog Faeces
  - viii) Dogs not under the control of their owners
  - ix) Moored boats including ropes and anchors
  - x) Moving boats (both motor and wind propelled) including windsurfers and jet skis
  - xi) Fishing tackle left below the low water mark
  - xii) Litter
  - xiii) Inclement weather (i.e. rough seas, windy conditions)
  - xiv) Vehicles/trailers and associated equipment
  - xv) Fallen stones from seawall on beach.
  - xvi) Water Quality particularly after heavy rainfall

### 3. Action Necessary: -

- 1) Place signs at prominent places at/near the beach to advise users that they do so at their own risk.
- 2) Erect signs as required by the European Bathing Water Directive.
- 3) Erect a sign to advise users that Lifeguards do not patrol the beach
- 4) Erect a sign to request users to take their litter home with them/use receptacles provided thus considering and safeguarding the safety of other users
- 5) Employ a beach cleaner for the summer season (say 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September annually) to generally clean Instow Sands, in particular by removing man-made debris, and ensure any unforeseen "risk assessment" issues are immediately brought to the attention of the parish council by informing the Clerk.

- 6) During the summer season ensure the beach cleaner checks the beach at least three times per week, remove any items that could cause injury/danger to users and make a record of the checks and any action(s) taken
- 7) The Council will establish a rota whereby each week during the summer season one Councillor will inspect the beach and will report to the Council on the state of the beach including cleanliness and presence of dangerous items.
- 8) Operate a beach-sharing scheme under which dogs will be restricted on part of the beach for part of the year.
- 9) Liaise with North Devon Council to ensure that Dog Control By-Laws in being are rigidly enforced by regular visits of the Dog Warden.
- 10) Maintain liaison with HM Coastguards responsible for the area together with local RNLI at Appledore.

4 **Conclusion: -**

- 1) By establishing this "risk assessment" policy, and by acting in accordance with it, Instow Parish Council will seek to ensure that the risks to the beach users are minimised.
- 2) Instow Parish Council will review this risk assessment document annually prior to the commencement of the summer season and update as necessary

Signed: -

Chairman of Instow Parish Council

Parish Clerk

Dated: -