

INSTOW PARISH COUNCIL

BEACH RISK ASSESSMENT

(Re-affirmed by IPC – 20/02/2025)

1. Introduction: -

- 1) Instow Parish Council (IPC) leases parts of the Instow foreshore (the Foreshore) from The Crown Estate Commissioners.
- 2) The term of this lease is from the 1st January 2010 to the 31st December 2034.
- 3) As tenants of the Foreshore, IPC acknowledges it has a legal and moral responsibility to perform a risk assessment of the Foreshore 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) IPC further acknowledges that, as the Parish authority for the area that includes a beach, it has a responsibility for the beach management of the beach.

2. The Risks Identified: -

- 1) In a recent risk assessment of the Foreshore and the beach, 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 for example
 - x) Moving boats (both motor and wind propelled) including windsurfers and jet skis
 - xi) Fishing tackle left below the low water mark for example
 - 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) When consent is obtained from the Environment Agency, Landowner or Organisation, place signs at prominent places at/near the beach entrances to advise users that they do so at their own risk.
- 2) When consent is obtained from the Environment Agency, Landowner or Organisation, erect a sign to advise users that Lifeguards do not patrol the beach
- 3) When consent is obtained from the Environment Agency, Landowner or Organisation, 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.
- 4) Employ a beach cleaner for the summer season (say 1st April to 30th September annually) to generally clean the beach, and ensure any unforeseen "risk assessment" issues are immediately brought to the attention of the Parish Council by informing the Clerk.

- 5) During the summer season ensure the beach cleaner checks the beach on a regular basis, and removes any items discovered that could cause injury/danger to users and make a record of the checks and any action(s) taken
- 6) IPC will establish a rota whereby during the summer season one Councillor will inspect the beach on a regular basis, and if needed, will report to IPC on the state of the beach including cleanliness and presence of dangerous items.
- 7) Liaise with local "Adopt a Beach" Group and support its activities when appropriate.
- 8) Liaise with North Devon District Council to ensure that Dog Control By Laws in being are rigidly enforced by regular visits of the Dog Warden
- 9) 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, IPC will seek to ensure that the risks to the beach users are minimised so far as is possible.
- 2) IPC will review this risk assessment document annually, prior to the commencement of the summer season and update as necessary

Signed: -

MJ Scott - Chairman

N Arthur - Councillor

J Middleton - Parish Clerk

Dated: - 20th February 2025