



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held

December 5 2017

Dunblane Centre, Dunblane

1100 - 1500

Item		Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Michael Avril, chair of Water Safety Scotland, welcomed everyone to the 14th meeting and thanked everyone for their efforts in attending. MA noted that there were last minute changes to the agenda and thanked Stewart Prodger, SEPA for organising the venue and agreeing to do a presentation.</p> <p>A safety briefing was given and round table introductions were made.</p> <p>In Attendance: Michael Avril, RNLI Richard Baker, Swimming Teachers Association Gillian Barclay, Family Representative Jason Burns Sweeney, Scottish Canals Giordano Ceccrelli, RNLI Jacob Davies, RNLI Carol Dick, Scottish Water Ross Greenhill, HMCG Robert Hamilton, RHSwim Roger Lockwood, RNLI Iain Mackinnon, Argyll and Bute Council Carlene McAvoy, RoSPA Becs Miller, RNLI Helen Miller, North Ayrshire Council Stewart Prodger, SEPA Jim Riach, Keep Scotland Beautiful George Rawlinson, NWSF (online) Jayne Smith, Scottish Swimming</p>	
	<p>Apologies: David Birrell, Volunteer Jane Campbell Morrison, AALS Sally Harris, Scottish Surfing Federation James Jopling, Samaritans in Scotland Elizabeth Lumsden, RoSPA Scot Mason, Stirling Council Grant Murray, Scottish Waters George Parsonage, Glasgow Humane Society Jane Pritchard, Perth and Kinross Council Dave Rossetter, Glenmore Lodge, SCA</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held
December 5 2017
Dunblane Centre, Dunblane
1100 - 1500

	Douglas Whitson, Scottish Borders Council	
2.	<p>Steering Group Report</p> <p>MA noted that the meeting would be recorded and then later deleted after the minutes are confirmed by the Steering Group. There were no objections.</p> <p>The full Steering Group report can be accessed here. The main points can be found below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Water Safety Scotland has published its 2017 situational analysis. If anyone has forgotten their log in details to the website, please get in touch with watersafetyscotland@rospa.com• The Steering Group has been working on a communication plan and has asked again for info on all future campaigns to be sent to watersafetyscotland@rospa.com• MA showed the group the WSS twitter page and talked about the WSS exhibition. A report on the exhibition can be accessed here. MA also expressed thanks to Clare Adamson, MSP, for sponsoring the exhibition.• Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy will be launched on January 31st and will be promoted later that evening in a Water Safety Scotland event at the Scottish Parliament• An MOU is in process of agreement with Aberdeen Water Safety Group, who are newest members. An MOU with the Fife Project is still underway.• RLSS UK are currently promoting their Don't Drink and Drown campaign. MA urged members to share information on the campaign.	ALL
3.	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting Held on 6th March, 2017</p> <p>A) Accuracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was one amendment highlighted by SP regarding the minutes of the last meeting. This has been reconciled. <p>B) Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There were no matters arising from the meeting. <p>The minutes were proposed by Stewart Prodger and seconded by Jason Burns Sweeney.</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held
December 5 2017
Dunblane Centre, Dunblane
1100 - 1500

4.	<p>Action Points</p> <p>MA and CM read the through the previous action points and provided a brief update. All the information is available here.</p>	
5.	<p>SEPA - Flooding Communications and Customer Service Team, Stewart Prodger</p> <p>SP presented on how SEPA works around water in Scotland. SEPA wants fewer people to be adversely effected by flooding and also wants people to understand what flood risk actually is and make behavioural changes based on this.</p> <p>SP's presentation can be accessed here.</p> <p>SP made two distinctions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood alerts are regional and primarily forecast based • Flood Warnings are local and come from the flood warning schemes. They are small scale, specific and come from good data and predication. <p>SEPA also issues a daily flood guidance statement, which looks at the five days ahead. SEPA is keen for the voluntary sector to use this information. If anyone wants more information on the guidance statement or wishes to sign up, SP urged them to get in contact.</p> <p>SP also noted SEPA's change in their campaigning approach. After research, SEPA has made the decision to focus campaigning on planned reactivity, which will be dependent on specific triggers. This will focus on advance notice and will include local and national radio advertising, digital advertising, social media and partnership activity.</p> <p>MA asked how SEPA knows where to set up flood warning schemes in Scotland. SP replied that it depends on finances and resources as well as national priorities and the greatest amount of risk e.g. coastal erosion.</p> <p>MA asked who decides to activate the planned reactivity campaigns. SP noted that there is a committee involved in this.</p>	ALL



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held

December 5 2017

Dunblane Centre, Dunblane

1100 - 1500

	<p>RH asked if there will be a move to other social media and not just facebook and twitter?</p> <p>SP agreed that there would be different social media platforms but facebook and twitter would be used first and then evaluated to see how people respond.</p> <p>BM noted that she was interested in the education community approach as its very close to what RNLI do.</p> <p>SP noted that SEPA cannot deliver education by themselves and need to work in partnership with others such as the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Community Safety Partnerships.</p>	
6.	<p>2018 Planning</p> <p>MA noted that on the agenda, everyone was asked to consider what WSS's 2018 priorities should be for the meetings agendas. The group was split into smaller groups for discussion and feedback.</p> <p>There was interest from members in promoting their campaigns, initiatives and safety messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RG noted that HMCG would be looking at its media role nationally and how safety messages could be used for local communities and local risks• JBS noted that Scottish Canals would continue their campaigns around water e.g. at the water's edge• CD talked about Scottish Water's learn to swim programme with Scottish Swimming which would continue into 2018• JD noted that RNLI would be looking at how they use their resources better in Scotland• GC noted that his work as part of RNLI would be looking at Swim Safe• BM talked about how RNLI would be doing an education review of messaging and would be able to update the group on what this will entail at a future meeting. SP mentioned that SEPA could also be involved in this• RH –talked about a recent document, which is looking at the impact of open water swimming in Scotland. He noted how he is	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held
December 5 2017
Dunblane Centre, Dunblane
1100 - 1500

	<p>trying to get stakeholders to engage with local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RB noted that STA would continue to work on learning to swim, social media campaigns and marketing • JS talked about how Scottish Swimming would continue to work in partnership to promote swimming and open water events • JR would continue to work with beach managers on the beach awards and use it as a conduit for continuing messaging and increasing community engagement. <p>There was also interest for further development of WSS and it's subgroups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IM noted that he would like to see a working group on inland water in order to highlight accident prevention and rescue. For example, in some areas of Scotland, the nearest rescue boats around 2.5 hours away. RG noted that the Community Asset Register could help with this and noted that he would forward information on to Water Safety Scotland • GB noted that she felt that WAID is insufficient and that her interest lies in the intelligence after incidents and how we can improve general prevention advice • HM noted that it has been great to see partnership working but the momentum would need to be continued • RL was keen to see how Scotland's Drowning Prevention strategy could be pushed through COSLA to get other councils better engaged with WSS • SP believed that WSS could better link with Community Safety Partnerships. <p>MA thanked everyone for their input, as it would be useful for planning next year's meetings.</p>	<p>RG</p>
	<p>Lunch</p>	
	<p>2018 Dates</p> <p>MA noted the dates of the next four meetings for 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th March • 5th June or 12th June (Doodle poll to be sent out) 	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held
December 5 2017
Dunblane Centre, Dunblane
1100 - 1500

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4th September• 4th December <p>MA noted that there had been a suggestion to reduce the meetings to three times a year but unless anyone disagrees, then it will remain as it is.</p> <p>MA made a plea to members to offer to host or pay for a meeting. He suggested it costs around £200 (including food and a venue).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JD suggested that RNLI could host another meeting• JBS offered the Falkirk Wheel again as a potential venue• SP also offered SEPA's premises• BM suggested that WSS get in touch with the Risk Factory to see the possibilities of using their premises. <p>MA finished the agenda item by thanking the group and letting them know that it would be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy Update</p> <p>CM thanked everyone who was able to attend the October 10 2017 Strategy update meeting. The meeting was extremely useful and provided some important feedback for the Strategy Subgroup to consider. One of the most important outcomes of the meeting was that it was unanimously agreed that the response document would become a full strategy for Scotland. Another important point was around the Education wording. If you are interested in the discussions of this meeting, the full minutes can be found on the website here.</p> <p>The Strategy Subgroup met on November 6 2017 to discuss the outcomes and actions of this meeting as well as making any specific decisions. Prior to this, KM and SM (Scottish Swimming) met to discuss the wording around education. RoSPA also provided suggested wording prior to the meeting. An agreement was suggested and the change in wording can be seen in the minutes of the November 6 meeting here.</p> <p>Since the November meeting, KM and CM have been working on the edits agreed by the Strategy Subgroup and the final version will soon be</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held

December 5 2017

Dunblane Centre, Dunblane

1100 - 1500

	<p>finalised for print. The Strategy Subgroup would like to thank everyone for their involvement and consultation during the past year.</p> <p>CM noted that RLSS UK are paying for the design of the document and RNLI are paying for the printing of the document.</p> <p>The strategy will be launched on January 31 2018. Thanks to Clare Adamson, MSP, we have also been lucky enough to secure an event on the evening of 31 2018 to celebrate the strategy and work of Water Safety Scotland. Please keep this date free. Formal invitations will be sent out shortly and we would appreciate if you could RSVP as soon as possible.</p> <p>We are also keen to receive any funding from members to help pay for the catering of this event. We are assuming a cost of around £1500 – £2000 (although this could be lower depending on numbers/catering choices). RoSPA has agreed to contribute £700 to the event but we are keen for other members to contribute. All donations would be gratefully received.</p> <p>BM suggested that crowdfunding could be a possibility.</p> <p>SP noted that Cashback for Communities could also be a good opportunity.</p> <p>GB suggested that Building Safer Communities could be asked. CM agreed that the SG would look into all suggestions and that we could ask BSC.</p>	
	<p>NWSF update, George Rawlinson</p> <p>GR congratulated WSS on their work on the Scottish Strategy and recent publicity and exposure around it.</p> <p>GR went on to provide an update on the governance review of the NWSF. In the background, the forum has been around since 2005 and has had changes to the constitution in 2008. It is not a legal entity but instead is a number of organisations working together. RoSPA is currently the secretariat and the forum is grateful for they work they do. Running alongside the Forum is WAID.</p>	



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held

December 5 2017

Dunblane Centre, Dunblane

1100 - 1500

The UK Drowning Prevention Strategy prompted the review in order to see if the Forum was fit for purpose going forward. The review would look into governance around WAID, the relationship with RoSPA (who currently holds the Forum's finances) and relationships with all members.

The NWSF is also Interested in gaining a clear understanding of what is expected of a member and what the Forum can give in return. It is looking at its first principles and the role/purpose of NWSF with the new strategy. It could either take the role in leadership of getting organisations to work together to implement the strategy or take a more detailed leadership role and get involved in the implementation. The latter would require a lot more resources.

Andrew Stewart volunteered legal advice and offered to write an independent review on the structure and governance of the Forum. Andrew had numerous conversations and interviews with members of the Forum. An interim report is available (although not in the public domain). Andrew has asked members for comments, errors, omissions and topics of interest. The next step will be analysis of this feedback and a final report with recommendations on what the Forum could do.

The review will also be looking at the role of coordinating groups and their interaction with sub working groups. The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (VSCG) and Water Safety New Zealand has been held up as best practice groups.

GR finished by noting that the Data Protection Regulations which come into law next year will also be important for all organisations. The Forum are also looking at the value of making the strategy trademarked.

MA thanked GR for this update and noted that he has been interview by Andrew for WSS. He is now working on reporting any comments.

MA noted that he is also visiting the VSCG Group in the next few days.

In terms of copyright, MA noted that CM is currently looking into this for the Scotland Strategy.

SP asked if the VSCG looks at combined safety.

JBS noted that it is a voluntary group with British waterways and the



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held

December 5 2017

Dunblane Centre, Dunblane

1100 - 1500

	<p>Forestry commission. It looks at numerous issues including signage, risk assessment and best practice.</p> <p>SP asked if it covers non-visitor areas?</p> <p>JBS noted that the landowner would do a risk assessment although if it was in a more remote area, less reliance would be needed.</p> <p>GB asked if the NWSF have any family representatives as members? GB noted that she felt exposed as an individual with no organisation behind her.</p> <p>GP responded that they do not regularly get family members attending He agreed that those who have been effected would be an important consideration that could be picked up by the report.</p> <p>MA noted that the document could be viewed at the end of the session. MA urged WSS to use the learning and future recommendations for WSS.</p> <p>GB asked if the forum would become a legal entity. MA responded that he was unsure but there was lots of work involved.</p>	
8.	<p>Fife Project, Beccs Miller</p> <p>BM noted that she was filling in for Mark Bryce. BM briefed the group on the Fife Project, which has been running for a few years in the area of Fife. It is a collaborative project and looks to educate secondary school children on water safety.</p> <p>BM asked for organisational help for the Fife Group. She suggested that it would take about half a day per week.</p> <p>CM noted that there had been interest recently from Fife Council in Water Safety Scotland and that she could get in touch to ask if it is of interest.</p> <p>SP also noted that the Business in the Community might support this. SP will look into this and get back to the group.</p>	<p>CM</p> <p>SP</p>



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held
December 5 2017
Dunblane Centre, Dunblane
1100 - 1500

9.	<p>Individual Updates</p> <p>CD noted that Scottish Water is working with Scottish Swimming to encourage employees and their families to learn to swim. This will continue into 2018.</p> <p>JBS talked about their continued campaigns and also noted their event with Red Bull Neptune Steps in May where 500 – 600 triathletes will participate in an adventure race. MA asked if this information could be shared so it could go on the website. JBS agreed.</p> <p>RG talked about the 50th anniversary of Joe and Petunia and how the characters have been resurrected for the occasion. He noted the HMCG has also got money for preventative activities next year. They are currently creating new educational materials which will be available online shortly. MA asked if this information can go on the WSS website. RG will send on the information.</p> <p>IM talked about how he has spread the Don't Drink and Drown message across Argyll and Bute council. In terms of LochWatch Loch Awe, they are hoping to create a pontoon which has easy access for rescue. They are also working with Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to look at signage around the water's edge.</p> <p>GB noted that her local community event (which was attended by an MP, Minister and 3 MSPs) brought up many questions around private landownership and its relevance to water safety.</p> <p>JD talked about how RNLI is currently looking at their strategy for next year and how this will link to Scotland's Drowning Prevention Strategy. GC update the group on Swim Safe and noted that he has been asked to risk assess Pease Bay. Swim Safe will be extended in 2018 to 3 weeks at Aberdour beach and 2 weeks at Pinkston WaterSports Centre.</p> <p>BM reiterated GC's points and noted that RNLI had 5 main aims for education in 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Police Scotland on a water safety initiative similar to what is currently happening in England. • Work with SEPA for safe highlanders, Safe Taysiders etc 	<p>JBS</p> <p>RG</p>



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held
December 5 2017
Dunblane Centre, Dunblane
1100 - 1500

- Continue work on the Fife Project
- Work with Ab Safe in Aberdeen to create a venue like the risk factory.
- Look at messaging and how it can fit better with other partners like RLSS UK. RG agreed the HMCG could be involved with this.

RH noted that he is in the process of finalising an area for open water swimming along the Clyde estuary. The landowner is also going to erect suitable signage. RH is also involved in rewriting the open water swimming coaching qualification. RH noted that inland water in Scotland is currently sitting at around 3.9 - 4.5 degrees centigrade. The International Ice Mile Championships have also just been confirmed. Advice on how to gear up for winter water swimming has also been published.

RB noted that the STA is continuing its learn to swim programme. The STA is aware of the lack of swimming teachers across the UK. They are trying to push recruitment.

JR noted that the Beach Award programme is open. This often flags up issues of risk assessments and is followed by a field assessment which looks at safety and signage, etc. JR noted that next year is the year of young people and Keep Scotland Beautiful will be hoping to engage more with communities and young people.

MA noted that 2020 will be the year of the coast.

HM talked about how North Ayrshire Council is doing its 2 yearly risk assessments around waterways. Streetscene also has recently got its own facebook page which should allow better engagement.

RL noted that has taken over the chair for RNLI Scottish Council. RL talked about how he is keen to be the voice of the RNLI in Scotland. He hopes to provide more updates at the June meeting.

CM provided an update on RoSPA and talked about the National Water Safety Conference, which was held on 5 October 2017 and was extremely well attended. Gordon Paterson, head of Building Safer Communities attended from Scotland. Water Safety Scotland was well



Water Safety Scotland

Minutes of the 14th Meeting held

December 5 2017

Dunblane Centre, Dunblane

1100 - 1500

	<p>promoted with many delegates eager to learn more about the work in Scotland, RoSPA in addition to working on the strategy is hoping to publish its research on the males aged 60 – 69 in the early new year. At a national level, RoSPA continues to work with Public Health England to create a National Accident Prevention Strategy for England. Through Building Safer Communities Phase 2, it is anticipated that something similar will be completed for Scotland.</p>	
10.	<p>Group Photo for Social Media</p> <p>A group photo was taken for Twitter and facebook.</p>	
11.	<p>Close</p> <p>MA thanked SP for hosting the meeting and paying for the lunch. He thanked CM for taking the minutes and thanked all for attending.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held on the 6th March. If you are interested in hosting a meeting, please contact watersafetyscotland@rospa.com</p> <p>.</p>	<p>ALL</p>