

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 AUGUST 2018

Present: C Baker (sub for L Stantiford), D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, T Day, S Goodwin, A Higgins, Cllr C Page-Nash, L Pettis (sub for L Stantiford), A Sargent, T Studley and Cllr K Wheller (Sub for Cllr P Kimber)

Apologies: A Frost, Cllr P Kimber, L Stantiford

Also present: Cllr J Farquharson

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master) and Nick Thornley (Head of Economy, Leisure and Tourism)

36. **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Lyle Stantiford sent apologies and Colin Baker and Luke Pettis attended as his substitute.

Cllr Paul Kimber sent apologies and Cllr Kate Wheller attended as his substitute.

37. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

38. **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 April 2018 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbour Management Board meetings held on 27 June 2018.

Alice Higgins gave a short message about the actions she had taken after the person jumped in to shallow water from the Peninsula and caused life-changing injuries. Messages were sent to all schools which was timely just before breaking for the summer.

The Harbour Master confirmed that the Harbour Office answer machine message now covers actions to be taken if the phone call is about an emergency.

39. **HARBOUR UPDATE**

Peninsular Development

A concept design was submitted with other papers for outline planning permission as application WP/18/00403/OUT in late May 2018. The public consultation period took place during June and has now closed. The process will now take a number of months for the information to be

analysed, responded to and recommendations made. The earliest a decision is likely is November 2018.

A press release can still be found at the following link:

<https://news.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/2018/05/23/peninsula-plans-submission-soon/>

The application can be found at the following link:

<https://webapps.westdorset-weymouth.gov.uk/PlanningApps/Pages/Planning.aspx?App=WP/18/00403/OUT>

Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

Authority was given by the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) on 22nd February 2018 to prepare and submit a Harbour Revision Order to the MMO in order to modernise and consolidate the current dated legislation relating to the Harbour operations.

The HRO's 42-day public consultation period on the MMO website ended on 2nd July 2018 but the documents are still available at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weymouth-harbour-revision-order?utm_source=2050b9e1-5e14-4e94-81c7-5e08540068b0&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

There have been a small number of objections which are now being worked through by the legal advisors and the MMO. If and when the HRO is approved, work will commence on defining the Directions.

There are also some other follow-on actions from the HRO work, which are being considered and will be reported on as soon as possible, including:

- The financial impact of the legal status of the harbour in previous years.
- The financial impact of the post-HRO era.

Fisher Port Future Project

The Fisher Report can be found on the harbour website at the following link:

<http://www.weymouth-harbour.co.uk/downloads/>

It is stressed that although the report contains recommendations made by the consultants, each of these will be considered in their own right to determine the financial viability and the applicability to Weymouth Harbour. There will be consultation with harbour users when necessary and appropriate. Only if it makes sense will the recommendation be

implemented. The Fisher Project work and the Peninsular development are closely linked so will evolve alongside each other in many areas.

Local Government Review

The future ownership of the harbour is likely to transfer to the Unitary, Dorset Council, as a part of the Local Government Review with effect from 1st April 2019. Further details will be forwarded when known.

FLAG

The report from a study by a Fisheries Consultant to refine the statement of requirement of the commercial fishermen who operate out of and visit Weymouth Harbour is still available at the same link as above. The outputs from the report will be used to inform the next stage of the Peninsula development at Weymouth. Again there will be consultation with harbour users when necessary and appropriate.

A bid has been made to the MMO for wider funding support from the European Fisheries Fund for a number of the elements of the fishing facilities in the Peninsula Project. However, the bid has been suspended as it has not been possible yet to mature it adequately for acceptance, approval and the commitment of expenditure. This is because the MMO are looking for planning permission to have been given and other requirements to be met. There is also an application been made to the Coastal Communities Fund. There is no information yet as to whether there will be a successor to the European Fisheries Fund.

FLAG Board meetings continue to be attended by Cllr C Huckle, the Harbour Master and Mr R Summerhayes, the fishermen's representative. Bids from across the region and community are regularly considered by the Board. £15K of safety equipment has been delivered to Weymouth Fishermen after a successful bid by them.

Harbour Walls

Walls C (Nelson's Wharf) & D (Ferry Steps)

A consulting company continues to refine a repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps), making more use of the existing structures. Investigative works took place in April and the information has helped with the design. A consultation meeting was held with the hotel community adjacent to the Ferry Steps. The target for the repair work remains Autumn/Winter 2018. Once the design is finalised and the programme is firmer, the impact of the repair to harbour operations will be discussed with those who will be affected.

Recent monitoring has not indicated any signs of further deterioration.

Business Plan

The programme to return some investment in to the infrastructure continues:

- The connection of Westwey Road toilets to the mains sewage is still awaiting legal agreement with the landowners involved with the route of the sewer, a complex issue.
- The e-system for managing visiting vessels, which it had been hoped to be in place for Summer 2018, has been delayed to avoid conflict with the main system. The aim is to introduce it over the coming winter in preparation for Summer 2019.
- Further WiFi coverage is still being investigated.
- The electricity pedestals on North Quay D Arm pontoons will be replaced soon as part of a rolling programme.

Maritime Events

The following events remain for 2018 and support is encouraged:

8 – 9 September Weymouth Yacht Regatta
23 September Ironman 70.3
25 December Christmas Day Harbour Swim

Feedback on this year's Seafood Festival will be requested at the meeting.

Weymouth Sailing Club and Review of Harbourside Watersports Facilities

Dorset Councils Partnership's legal department have drafted and issued the new Weymouth Sailing Club lease from the agreed Heads of Terms. Discussions continue on it.

A draft Rowing Club lease for renewal has been shared with the Club.

Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO)

A PSPO has been issued to ensure public spaces can be enjoyed by all and kept free from anti-social behaviour. The order covers the following in defined locations:

- Consumption of alcohol
- Intentional feeding of gulls
- Begging
- Cycling on the Promenade.

Further details can be found at the following link:

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/your-community/community-safety/anti-social-behaviour/anti-social-behaviour-in-weymouth-and-portland.aspx>

Reporting Incidents

All harbour users are reminded to report incidents including theft, vandalism, intruders etc. to both the Harbour Office and the Police. Only by knowing about the incidents can the appropriate authorities tackle the crime.

Weymouth Water Safety Group

Hannah Wiggins-Bett, the Community Drowning Prevention Coordinator of the Royal Lifesaving Society is hoping to form a Weymouth Water Safety Group. The inaugural meeting will take place on 28th September. Those involved have been contacted.

RNLI Lifeboat Pontoon

The all weather lifeboat pontoon will be refurbished in the next few months, increased maintenance activity is expected in that area.

Weymouth Magnetic Open Sea Range Marine Licence

An application has been made to the MMO by Qinetiq to lay a control cable from the Range to the Commercial Area to allow control from there. The application reference is MLA/2018/00320 and can be found at the following link:

https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGISTER/

PMSC Items

After a concern was raised by the Coxswain of the Lifeboat a meeting was held with the RNLI, Portland Port, Weymouth Harbour and Portland Sailing Academy to discuss issues identified when there a large number of sailing dinghies racing in the Bay or Portland Harbour. Better lines of communication were established.

The Sailing Academy's programme can be found on their website at the following link (which is now available on the Weymouth Harbour website):

<http://www.wpnsa.org.uk/events>

Harbour users are encouraged to look at the website for further information on the Academy's events.

There have been a number of incidents with jet skis operating in the wrong areas or at too high speeds, causing safety concerns to other users of the Bay and harbour. Individuals have been contacted where possible to discuss their actions. Dorset Marine Police are aware of the problem and have provided some assistance in monitoring activity and education of operators.

Antony Frost has raised the issue of leisure rod fishing in the harbour and the conflict with vessels. This point will be discussed at the meeting.

Harbour users are reminded that diving operations may only take place in the harbour with approval from the Harbour Office. As part of the duty of care to berth-holders permission should be sought for towing operations from the Harbour Office.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 18 to 31 Jul 18

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end July 2018	
No Visitor Nights	3117
% variance compared to 2017/18 (equates to £7,885)	Up 2.1%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 3.1%
No short stay (2017: 62)	159
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2017: 290)	255

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 280 of 411 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 29 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 85 of 105 at end of period.

Kathy Claydon commented that she thought the 'seagull signs' were too small and not enough of them, particularly along Trinity Road. The Harbour Master added that additional signs were now in place in support of the PSPO but they were also quite small. This will be considered when replacement signs are required.

The following comments were made when reviewing the Seafood Festival and will be forwarded to the organisers and other agencies where applicable:

- It was a success that members of the organizing committee had come to brief the group before the event.
- The RNLI had no official contact from the organisers until Andy Sargent contacted them on the Thursday. It was stated an e-mail had gone to Malcolm Wright, the Operations Manager, but he did not receive any. The station is the normal contact point.
- Residents in East St area were also not contacted regarding the inability for them to access their property with vehicles while the event was on.
- It has been asked if it would be possible to have 'emergency personnel' access behind the stalls. There was quite a gap behind

the stalls along Trinity Road, and if barriers were put each end, it may assist these people in getting through the event without having to fight the crowds.

- Alcohol and boat owners. A concern was raised that some boat owners may have been going to sea with several people on board after having consumed significant quantities of alcohol.
- There was a shortage of toilets and extra ones should be brought in for the event.
- A considerable number of glass glasses were recovered from around the harbourside by street pastors in the evenings of the event. A plastic only policy is requested.
- There may have been insufficient bins on the Trinity Road side.
- The rowing ferry operators at the Ferry Steps were pleased that the event attracted so many people.
- It was felt that there were less stalls and activities in the Pavilion forecourt than previous years.

It was noted that there are sometimes conflicts between people fishing on the Piers and vessels entering and leaving the harbour. This may be able to be addressed in general Directions as there are no current byelaws dealing with the matter. All harbour users are requested to respect each other's activities.

40. **PMSC ISSUES**

There were no further PMSC issues.

41. **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Alice Higgins gave an update on the Surf Lifesaving Club. This has been a great success in its first year with demand being over the capacity of the trainers and adult supervisors. The Club has reached out to a good number of youths who are benefitting from some exciting activities and water safety education. It is intended to try to maintain a programme over the winter using local pools and other facilities. Additional trainers are encouraged to support this project. Funds and grant have been obtained but further resources are being sought. Nick Thornley asked Alice for a short written summary which he could use to seek further assistance. Alice was congratulated for her efforts.

Tim Day explained that Weymouth Sailing Club had experienced some potential vandalism of racing marks in Weymouth Bay. Although it is usual to lose some marks in strong winds the numbers this year have been far greater than normal. There were also signs that some buoys have been cut. Harbour users are asked to report any suspicious activity in the vicinity of the marks. Weymouth Sailing Club were asked to raise the issue with Portland Port as some of the marks are within their area.

The remaining major fishing competitions for 2018 are:

- Police National Boat Competition 14 Sep 18

- Weymouth International Boat Angling Challenge 15 - 19 Oct 18
- Weymouth Pairs Boat Angling Competition 1 - 2 Nov 18

42. **ANY OTHER FURTHER BUSINESS**

The marking of fishing gear was raised because it is felt that there are increasing numbers of vessels getting caught on unmarked or poorly marked equipment. It was recognised that some of this is in areas outside the harbour's jurisdiction. The RYA are asking boat owners who have been affected to report the incidents to them. The Harbour Master agreed to find the regulations and discuss the issue with Southern IFCA. Some of the people laying such gear are not full-time professional fishermen.

The RNLI will be celebrating 150 years of being stationed in Weymouth in 2019. Some of the events being organised are:

Sat 26 Jan – The birthday. Lifeboat Crew dinner.

Fri 22 March – “Weymouth Lifeboat Station 150th Birthday Party” at The Pavilion

Sun 23 June – Street Parade through Weymouth with the Veterans

Sat 28 July – Boat Parade from harbour across Weymouth Bay (start of Lifeboat week)

Wed 14 Aug – Weymouth Carnival.

The lack of lighting along the Commercial Road berths was raised again as a safety and security issue. The Harbour Master said he would raise it at a working group reviewing lighting in Weymouth.

A concern was raised about the safety of the stage lorry for the Rendez-vous events. On the Bank Holiday weekend it was put in place early on the morning of Friday even though the event did not start until the Saturday. It blocked the pavement forcing pedestrians in to the road. Cars and bikes passing close to it were at risk on the slippery railway lines. It was requested that this be reported to DCC, the town councillor, the organiser and licensing.

The Harbour Master clarified that the price for storing fishing gear in the Commercial Area was set and promulgated with the Scale of Charges in December for the following year, approved by the Harbour management Board. The new prices apply from the 1st April. The price is a business decision. It was also confirmed that the Harbour Master has asked for advance warning from fishermen wanting to access the Commercial Area as the staff have other tasks as well.

There was a discussion about the impact of vagrants and in particular in the North Quay facilities, which are regularly broken in to with unsavoury acts taking place, including drug taking and deals. The facilities can be intimidating for customers and staff by the presence of vagrants or the mess

that is left. The Harbour staff are continually battling with this issue, reporting it to the Police and other Community Support organisations. It may be necessary to lock one of the toilets off during the winter and use the remaining one as a Unisex facility. It was stressed that whatever the incident is around the harbour it needs to be reported to the Police and the Harbour Office. The Police will only act if they know there is crime, which has to be reported.

Nick Thornley reported that there would be a national celebration of the end of the First World War on the 11th Nov. Further details to follow.

43. **DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

14 November 2018 7pm

20 February 2019 7pm

Chairman

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