

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 APRIL 2017

Present: A Clarke, K Claydon, T Elgar, S Goodwin, A Higgins, C Joyner, M Jury, L Stantiford, T Studley and M Wright

Apologies: D Caddy, C James, A Sargent and G Taylor

Also present: Cllr K Wheller (as Substitute for C James)

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

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master) and Lindsey Watson (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 January 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

The Harbour Master referred the group to two post meeting notes that he had added to the minutes following the meeting with regard to the procedure for road closures for events by Dorset County Council and also with regard to renewals for berthing agreements which would be done by email this year.

Councillor Wheller noted that she would ask the Democratic Improvement Steering Group to look at borough council representation on the group.

The Harbour Master had passed on thanks from the group to Terry Pavey for all his work on the group over the years.

The Harbour Master welcomed Clive Joyner who would be joining the group as the police representative.

18. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

On 7th March, Management Committee discussed a paper regarding the economic impact assessment of the future plan for the Peninsular. It can be found at item 9 of the reports pack at the following link:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&Md=199&Ver=4>

Short and medium-term uses are still being sought for some of the area and buildings associated with the former ferry service to augment the already current occupation (Terminal Building Check-in Area by Dorset Abilities Group and D-Shed by National Trade Auctions). There is ongoing work to evolve the plan for the development of the peninsula whilst aiming to have any harbour requirements considered.

Commercial Road Development

There has been no further information on the development of Commercial Road.

Harbour Walls

The update on the harbour walls to the Harbour Management Board on 22nd February was conducted as an Exempt item.

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

Technical Services remain focused on generating a solution for the repair of Wall D at the Ferry Steps area in Autumn 2017. Work is ongoing with external contractors to develop the design and refine the costs. Once the design is nearing completion it will be shared with the Group.

Technical Services, Harbour Staff and local operators will continue to monitor for any signs of further deterioration.

A bid for LEP funding which was intended to fund some harbour walls' work was not successful. Alternatives are now being investigated.

Stone Pier

There will be some minor repairs to the inner of the groynes on the Stone Pier in the next few months. There should be no impact to harbour users although it is requested that care is taken with wash as there will be scaffolding erected.

Business Plan

The current focus of the work on the 2014 – 19 Harbour Business Plan Recommendations still remains the updating of the Safety Management System including reviewing the risk assessments and associated work instructions, procedures and records.

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

- The toilets on the Westwey Road pontoons have been refurbished and are a great improvement. It is hoped to connect to the mains sewage soon, which will remove the need for a sewage tank and empties. A cover has been fitted around the water supply break tank.

- The fire extinguisher bollards have been replaced on North Quay pontoons.
- The slipway pontoons have been replaced. 2 additional fingers have been added to increase berth availability. It is hoped to provide a water supply to these berths in due course.
- The wood decking on North Quay pontoons will be surveyed and replaced where necessary in the next financial year.

Maritime Events

Dates for the diary this year include:

- 23 April Beaulieu Boat Jumble, Harbour Office stand
- 19 – 21 May Poole Boat Show, Harbour Office stand
- 8 – 9 July Seafood Festival
- 21 July Release date of Dunkirk film
- 15 – 16 August Carnival
- ~~9 – 10 September~~ Waterfest Cancelled
- 17 September Ironman 70.3

Maximum support is encouraged from harbour users.

Harbourside Watersports Clubs/Users

Work continues to review all the arrangements for the agreements, leases and licences for those organisations on the south shore of the harbour and to try to negotiate a way forward with the aim of re-allocating areas of water to best suit the needs of today and the future. A refreshed allocation of water for Weymouth Sailing Club, Weymouth Rowing Club, Sea Cadets and Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre has been proposed to the clubs and organisations. This has been agreed in principle.

As the first organisation to be dealt with in detail, negotiations are ongoing with Weymouth Sailing Club to renew their lease and to reflect the changes from the review. This includes discussion to fit pontoons in the club's Cove area.

The aim is to try to include the RNLI's needs as they are looking to complete changes by 2019 for their new Inshore Lifeboat, which will not fit in the current boatshed.

Dredging

A marine licence has been granted by the MMO to dispose of the material from dredging of the harbour over the next 5 years. The dredging itself will be conducted using an exemption which applies due to the legal acts associated with the harbour. The extent of the dredging will be dependent on the funding available.

This is believed to be a Capital works project and needs to be considered for funding.

Weymouth & Portland Tourism Partnership

The Tourism Partnership continues to work to promote and improve tourism in Weymouth and Portland. Marine representation is important and falls to the Chair of the Harbour Consultative Group and a member of Portland Port, with support from the Harbour Office.

A verbal update will be given by the Chairman at the meeting.

Poole Harbour Watch and Police Patrols

As a harbour we are now enroled as part of Poole Harbour Watch and will disseminate any relevant information. As well as increased Border Force presence, we are also experiencing renewed efforts from the marine and local police.

FLAG

The Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) covering the area from Swanage to Beer has been accepted and received financial backing. Staff recruitment has taken place, the Chair and Vice Chair have been nominated and the launch ceremony was on 13th March. The first bids have been requested and will be considered at the inaugural working meeting on 2nd May 2017.

Car Parking

It has been agreed that annual marina berth-holders will be entitled to purchase seasonal permits for Weymouth parking at 50% of the normal price i.e. £162.50 or £273.00. Currently the car parks permitted for use of the permits should meet the needs of berth-holders as the Magistrates Court and North Quay are both in the £325 permit. The closure of North Quay car parks may present a problem but we would keep this under review and act if extended use of the car park is not negotiated. Details for applications will be disseminated soon.

North Quay Facilities

We are experiencing a number of homeless individuals on occasions using the harbour facilities at North Quay. We are working with the police regarding this matter but all harbour users are asked to be careful with the security of codes and vigilant for strangers. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Harbour Office as soon as possible.

Independent Members

Matt Walkden's nomination as an Independent Member of the Harbour Management Board was approved by Full Council on 19th January.

Business Development

The following publications, sites and marketing tools have been targeted in the last year:

Advertising (visitors and annual berth-holders):

- Marina stories - All at Sea as/when required – March/Monthly
- ½ page advert Practical Boat Owner Marina Guide – April
- ½ page advert Sailing Today – June
- ¼ page advert Cruising Association - June
- 3 ½ page adverts All at Sea – June/July & August
- ½ page advert Practical Boat Owner summer edition - July
- Full page advert Southampton Boat Show Guide - September
- ½ page advert All at Sea Southampton Boat Show edition – September
- ½ page advert Sailing Today - October
- Full page Yachting World Annual Yearbook – December
- Full page advert National Workboat Association Members Booklet – January 2017
- ¼ page advert Powerboat & Rib London Boat Show edition – January 2017
- Full page advert in Poole Harbour Marina Guide – January 2017

Social Media:

- Harbour Facebook page has 3,201 likes with 3,138 people followers.
- Daily Facebook posts/sharing/interaction with other pages/organisations/followers
- Sharing harbour news/posts on Visit Dorset twitter accounts (@Visit_Dorset and @DorsetTourism)
- Weekly (or more) news updates on www.weymouth-harbour.co.uk (website visitor statistics recorded monthly)
- Monthly E-Newsletter

Exhibitions:

- Portland Fish n Ships - April
- Beaulieu Boat Jumble - April
- Poole Boat Show - May

Offers:

- Pocket Guide Loyalty Card
- Short Stay Loyalty Scheme
- Distribution of Harbour Guides upon requests

PMSC Items

There are no further PMSC Items to discuss at this stage.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 16 to 28 Feb 17

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end February 2017	
No Visitor Nights	4958
% variance compared to 2015/16	-3.97
% variance on 3 year average (does not incl. 2012)	-3
No short stay (2015: 109)	124
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2015: 262)	328
No FOC on existing 4 for 3 scheme (2015: 109)	68

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 263 of 409 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings - 28 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 82 of 96 at end of period

The group discussed the issues arising from the report and the following points were discussed:

- FLAG – first bids were currently being received. The initial meeting of the board had been delayed;
- Car Parking – an alternative car park for annual marina berth-holders with discounted parking permits would be provided once the car park at North Quay was closed;
- Maritime Events – It was noted that the YCW regatta on 2/3 September and dinghy regatta on 8/9 July would be included in the list;
- It was noted that the toilet near to the Ship Inn may be having an attendant in situ during the day. This may also be happening in another couple of toilets in the area;
- A question was raised with regard to the re-siting of the angling club. This would be part of the of the Commercial Road development and councillor Wheller indicated that she would be speaking to the Strategic Director about this;
- Weymouth and Portland Tourism Partnership – A Clarke noted that he had been unable to attend the last meeting however he understood that there had been a presentation by the Weymouth BID Manager and a discussion with regard to the Constitution of the Weymouth and Portland Tourism Partnership.

19. PMSC ISSUES

There were no PMSC issues to discuss.

20. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

M Jury asked whether the swimming zone buoys had been placed further out than historically? The Harbour Master confirmed that they had been put out using the same information as in previous years but he would check following the meeting.

Clive Joyner had a role to support the Harbour Master with issues such as anti social behaviour around the harbour and working with other agencies with regard to homelessness issues. His role on the group would provide representatives with easier access to police in order to address issues. Contact for issues arising day to day continued to be through 101 or 999 if appropriate.

21. ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS

A Frost would be replacing T Elgar on the Harbour Consultative Group. The Harbour Master noted his thanks to T Elgar for his time on the group and wished him all the best in his new job.

In response to a question, the Harbour Master confirmed that there was adequate signage in respect of the Ferry Steps rowing boats.

A diagram in respect of the Peninsular development was available within the agenda for the Management Committee on 13 December 2016.

The Peninsular development had been discussed at the group's meeting in January. Points raised had been fed to the borough council's working group by the Harbour Master. An updated diagram may be available at the next meeting of the Management Committee on 18 April 2017.

M Jury reported that he was currently looking for a replacement for him on the group. He noted that he would contact the Harbour Master with the details.

In response to a question, C Joyner reported that the CCTV cameras around the harbour recorded 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, but that operatives monitored the cameras between 4.00pm and 4.00am. It was noted that when the CCTV Monitoring Station moved to Dorchester, this would become 24 hour monitoring.

The Harbour Master noted that any incidents around the harbour needed to be reported to police and the harbour office as soon as possible. C Joyner noted proposals to encourage a harbour watch type of scheme for the harbour and there was a general discussion with regard to use of cameras around the harbour and whether there was funding for any additional cameras.

M Jury noted the importance of people abiding by the speed limits within the harbour as there were more people on the water now the season was starting.

22. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group:-

12 July 2017 – 7pm
11 October 2017 – 7pm
24 January 2018 – 7pm
18 April 2018 – 7pm

Harbour Management Board:-

28 June 2017 – 3pm
27 September 2017 – 3pm
6 December 2017 – 3pm
21 February 2018 – 3pm

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 7.46 pm

Chairman
