

WEYMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2019

Present: D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, T Day, A Frost, S Goodwin, J Pullin, Cllr M Roberts, T Studley

Apologies: A Higgins, Cllr C Huckle, A Sargent

Also present: Cllr R Hughes (Harbours Committee)

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting): Ken Buchan (Head of Environment and Well-being), Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master)

10. **Apologies and substitute members**

A Higgins and Cllr C Huckle sent apologies. J Ayling attended as the substitute member for A Sargent.

11. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12. **Minutes and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 May 2019 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbours Committee meeting held on 19 June 2019.

The Harbour Master confirmed that, for Loop Car Park permit holders, Cosens Quay Car Park is an approved alternative if the Loop Car Park is full. Users of the Loop Car Park are asked to park considerately to maximise the use of the space.

13. **Weymouth Harbour update**

Peninsula Development

The development of the Peninsula is being considered in 3 phases:

- Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project – covering the quayside from No.1 Berth to the Ferry Steps. Project is supported by £3.8M from the Coastal Communities Fund, which has to be spent by the end of March 2021. This has started with the demolition of the Terminal Building (Building A). Works to demolish the Ferry Steps Building will start on 16th September, leading on to the repair of Wall D (Ferry Steps) starting on 30th September.
- Peninsula Phase 1 – a hotel, a pub with rooms and the walkway around the Peninsula.
- Peninsula Phase 2 – further leisure units.

The Dorset Council funding will be discussed further now that Dorset Council has an established Committees structure and Members.

The next steps of the development are to complete preparations for demolishing Building B, a full design for the Quay Regeneration and its associated planning permission.

It is hoped the space created by the demolition of the Terminal Building will provide further parking spaces.

There is more work to be completed on the woodwork of the Pleasure Pier, including the piles and facings on the edge of the Pier. It is hoped that a café building of similar concept to the ones on the beach will be let on the Pier, planning permission has been applied for.

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 latest estimate for approval of the HRO is October 2019 as there have been some delays due to changes in officers in the MMO raising additional queries. Once these have been resolved the approval will be dependent on when it can be considered by central government who are focused on other subjects.

If and when the HRO is approved, work will commence on defining the Directions.

There is further work to do on the financial impact of the defined HRO area.

Local Government Review

The ownership of the harbour was transferred to the Unitary, Dorset Council, from 1st April 2019 as part of the Local Government Review. The governance of the harbour includes a Harbours Committee as the Duty Holder, which covers Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours. The first meeting of the Harbours Committee was held on 19th June.

The Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group will continue in its current format. Cllr Mark Roberts has been appointed to the Group from the Harbours Committee, Dorset Council and Cllr Colin Huckle from Weymouth Town Council to fill the 2 Councillors' positions.

There is still considerable work to merge the various Councils and officers in to one organisation, which will include some changes to the officer structure.

A revised Operations Plan to reflect the change of ownership has been produced and is available on the Weymouth Harbour website under Management Documents:

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

A new Business Plan will be proposed in the next few months once there is a more settled Council organisation.

Richard Noakes, the former Designated Person has left the Council. Mr William Heaps of Marico Marine has been appointed as the Designated Person for Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours. The contract is for 3 years but subject to an annual review.

FLAG

The FLAG has now fully committed its funds and currently remains closed to new applications. The Board is still meeting to monitor the expenditure and to visit or be presented with some of the outputs from the projects that were funded over the last two years, particularly infrastructure projects under Priority Three of the Local Development Strategy which aimed to enable safe, sustainable working ports and harbours.

FLAG Board meetings are attended by Weymouth Harbour Master and Mr R Summerhayes, the fishermen's representative. There are also a number of representatives from Dorset Council.

A successor Fisheries Fund scheme has been announced with further details available in due course but dependent on the Brexit decision.

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

Knights Brown are ready to start the repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps), being on site from 30th September. Some preparatory works on services will be carried out before the 30th September but there will be minimal impact. This includes the removal of some low-level asbestos from the Ferry Steps Building starting on 16th September. The adjacent pontoons and access will be removed at a date to be confirmed after 22nd September. The works area will extend about 2.5m in to the river from the existing wall; a Notice to Mariners will be issued and some buoys will be put in place to mark the area. It is hoped that the piling and major construction work will be finished by Christmas with the detailed finishing jobs being done in the New Year. The EA Permit, Marine Licence and Planning Permission for the works are in place.

Ferry Steps operators have been advised that the area will be available until 22nd September and then, after that, only subject to the works programme allowing. Those concerned will be kept informed as the plan evolves.

Harbour Walls Condition Survey

A report on the full condition survey, including underwater, of all the harbour walls has been received by Technical Services. It is being analysed so that a prioritised programme of works can be established with associated costs. This is 5 years after the last survey so that comparisons can be made to evaluate any deterioration.

Business Plan

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

- A number of the railings around the harbour have been painted to freshen them.
- Ground soil samples have been taken along the route of the proposed sewage pipe for connection of Westwey Road toilets to the mains. There continues to be discussions with the landowners, the outcome of which will then allow an estimate of the amount of soil to be moved. This will then determine whether it is cost effective to continue with the works.
- It is still hoped to provide WiFi coverage in most areas of the harbour but there is a complication with Open-reach data capacity in the area. The project is hopefully being grant supported by DCC as part of a wider project to provide WiFi to the general public.

- It is planned to replace some more electricity bollards on North Quay pontoons.
- It is planned to replace some more decking on North Quay pontoons.
- Lighting for the Commercial Road pontoons is still being considered.

Maritime and Local Events

A list of events for this year is available on the harbour website. The following are some of the remaining harbour related ones for which support and understanding are encouraged:

2019

7 – 8 September	Weymouth Yacht Regatta (Dates corrected at meeting)
9 – 12 September	European Boat and Line Class Fishing Championship
21 September	Squib South Coast Championships (WSC)
22 September	Ironman 70.3
7 – 11 October	Weymouth International Boat Angling Challenge
5 November	Guy Fawkes Celebration
25 December	Christmas Day Harbour Swim

2020

11 – 12 July	Seafood Festival
--------------	------------------

Weymouth Rowing Club

A draft Rowing Club lease for renewal has been shared with the Club and is being discussed.

Weymouth Inshore Lifeboat Boat

Discussions continue regarding a solution for housing a larger Inshore Lifeboat.

North Quay Facilities

The facilities were opened up for visitors' use by using the code entry system. Regrettably they were quickly being used by vagrants for sleeping and as a drugs' den, leaving their used drugs equipment behind. There was no option but to revert to the Unisex arrangement based on the former ladies using the fob system. This unfortunately negates the use of the facilities by visitors who now all have to use 13 Custom House Quay.

Weymouth Water Safety Group

The Weymouth Water Safety Group led by Hannah Wiggins-Bett, the Community Drowning Prevention Coordinator of the Royal Lifesaving Society continues to meet and seeks opportunities to deliver water safety messages. Some successful events have been held this year.

North Quay Development

The site of the former North Quay Council Offices will be developed in conjunction with Magna Housing. There is no further information yet but some public consultations will be held. The concerns regarding access to the North Quay pontoons and parking have been raised.

Harbour Staff

Claire Flowers has retired from her post as Moorings Officer after 30 years employment in the Council, 28 with the harbour. A replacement is being recruited.

4th Harbours Committee Independent Member

A 4th Independent Member for the Harbours Committee will be recruited soon.

MCA Fishing Boat Consultation

In the last 10 years, there have been 46 fatalities on small fishing vessels which have resulted in a number of recommendations from the MAIB to improve safety. Some of these came into force in 2017 with the introduction of a new Code, MSN1871. To address the other recommendations, the MCA have been developing a new Code of Practice for Small Fishing Vessels, proposing new requirements for new and existing vessels in the following areas:

- • Construction, Watertight and Weathertight Integrity;
- • Stability
- • Machinery
- • Electrical Installations
- • Crew Protection
- • Man Overboard Recovery.

The MCA intends to consult on this Code in Autumn 2019. Alongside this Consultation, the MCA will also be conducting a roadshow around the UK where Fishermen can come along and ask questions on the new Code. It is hoped that one of the shows will be held in Weymouth. More details will be forwarded when available.

Points from last meeting

It is planned to have some glass recycling bins on the North Quay and Westwey Road pontoons once the arrangements and costs are settled.

PMSC Items

Speed in the harbour. There continues to be vessels transiting the harbour at too high speeds causing wakes with the possibility of damaging boats or injuring harbour users. All harbour users are requested to transit the harbour safely at low speeds with minimal wash.

Jet-skis. Throughout the summer there have been regular incidents of PWCs transiting the harbour too fast, at high speeds in the PWC lane at Bowleaze and disregarding the Bay buoys by operating inside them. Needless to The harbour team continue to educate users on the local operating area whenever there is an opportunity.

Lookout. There have been some close quarters situations between sailing vessels and other vessels in the harbour. A good lookout by both the crew sailing and the other vessels would help to avert any situations.

Towing. Towing in the harbour should be approved by the Harbour Office. An incident when a moored vessel was hit by a vessel being towed in the Inner Harbour could have been averted if there had been a better plan.

Pleasure Pier Swimmers. Groups of mainly youths are regularly being advised about swimming from the Pleasure Pier. Police and RNLI beach lifeguards have also been involved.

Questions from HCG Members

No points or questions.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 19 to 30 Jul 19

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end July 2019	
No Visitor Nights	3580
% variance compared to 2018/19	Up 15%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 15%
No short stay (2018: 159)	141
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2018: 255)	255

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 294 of 413 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 79 of 105 at end of period.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 19 to 31 Aug 19 (Updated verbally at the meeting)

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end August 2019	
No Visitor Nights	4807
% variance compared to 2018/19	Up 13%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 13%
No short stay (2018: 206)	172
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2018: 331)	355

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 294 of 411 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 82 of 106 at end of period.

Dates for future meetings (Commercial Road)

- 30 Oct 19
- 15 Jan 20.

14. **Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Issues**

No further PMSC items were raised.

15. **Items from members**

No items were raised prior to the meeting.

16. **Any other future business**

The following points were made as feedback for the Seafood Festival:

- The impact of travellers who stole some gear from shops and fishing vessels/charter boats and messed around on some of the boats.
- The state of the public toilets which was not giving a good impression of Weymouth.
- There appeared to be better waste management so less rubbish around.

T Studley reflected on his recent lift-out period at Portland Marina where he felt that commercial vessels were not welcome, which he thought was unfortunate as there were few other options locally.

There was a discussion about the possibility of Weymouth or the local area being used as a port for smuggling in immigrants. Although there are some challenges with the distances involved from the French coast, it is still a possibility. All harbour users should remain vigilant and report any suspicious people using the Project Kraken reporting system.

J Ayling confirmed there is no clear direction yet for berthing the larger new inshore lifeboat when it comes.

There was a discussion regarding the lifeboat being called out to tow a stricken vessel when there was no danger to life. This is costly and not an appropriate use of volunteers' time or good will. Alternatives should be considered on each occasion by the coastguard and locally, including the use of the sea-start organisation or anchoring outside the harbour to wait for an engineer.

Concerns were raised again about the number of pots and fishing gear that are in our local waters, particularly those that are poorly marked. The fishing community are asked to help with this issue by considering other water users.

The following Group members have come to the end of their first 3-year period on the Group but would like to continue with the second period:

- Dave Caddy – Harbour Traders
- Kathy Claydon – Inner Harbour Marina Moorings
- Steve Goodwin – Commercial Passenger carrying Vessels.

There were no objections.

17. **Dates for future meetings**

- 30 October 2019
- 15 January 2020

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.15 pm

Chairman

.....