

**WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL HARBOUR
CONSULTATIVE GROUP**

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2017

Present: D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, A Frost, S Goodwin, M Jury (Substitute), P Kimber, C Page-Nash, L Stantiford, T Studley and M Wright (Substitute)

Apologies: T Day, A Higgins and A Sargent

Also present: Cllr I Bruce

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

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master) and Elaine Tibble (Democratic Services Officer)

10. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Mike Jury attended as a substitute for Tim Day (Yacht Clubs of Weymouth). Malcolm Wright attended as a substitute for Andy Sargent (RNLI).

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of 12 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

The minutes of the Harbour Management Board meeting held on 7 September 2017 were received.

13. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

A report was given to Management Committee on the Peninsula development in September but it was an Exempt Report. The decisions can be found at the following link:

<https://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=527&Ver=4>

and are:

- (i) That the progress with the redevelopment of the peninsula be noted;
- (ii) That the potential need for the scheme to involve some level of public sector investment to assist viability depending on the delivery strategy selected;

(iii) That £500,000 be allocated from capital receipts to enable the scheme to be progressed by undertaking a range of further preparatory work including:

- (a) Progress the scheme design and secure outline planning consent;
- (b) Formal Marketing of initial elements to secure pre-let and/or presales of initial units;
- (c) Secure specialist legal advice and professional services to support the further development of the scheme;
- (d) Financial appraisal of the harbour investment proposals from the Fisher report;
- (e) Undertake further financial modelling and development of funding options for the "Borrow & Retain" option set out in the report to Management Committee on 19 September 2017.

(iv) That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director (M Hamilton), in consultation with the section 151 Officer, to progress all matters arising in item (iii) above.

(v) That appropriate governance arrangements be set out and reported back to a future meeting of the Management Committee.

Commercial Road Development

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

Harbour Walls

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

A further repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps), making more use of the existing structures, is being investigated as the previous heavy piling designs are considered to be too expensive and have significant risks associated with them. A consultant is being appointed through the SCAPE framework. The details of the proposal will be made available as soon as practical. The repair work is now not expected to take place until Autumn 2018.

Technical Services, Harbour Staff and local operators will continue to monitor for 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. This will remove the need for a sewage tank and empties.

- The wood decking on North Quay pontoons will be surveyed and replaced where necessary, hopefully over this winter.

Fisher Port Future Project

A final report has been made available by Fisher Associates. This requires some further work before it can be shared more widely.

Committee update: Vision was to make Weymouth the best leisure port in the South West. Looking at taking project forward and feed into the peninsular development.

Maritime Events

The Ironman 70.3 took place on 17th September 2017 and there were considerably less complaints after the lessons from the previous year had been taken in to account.

Committee update: The Harbour Master had attended internal de-brief and the consensus was that the event had been better this year. No complaints to date from harbour users. Commitment had been made to the event for next year on 23rd September.

Weymouth Sailing Club and Review of Harbourside Watersports Facilities

Heads of Terms for a new lease with Weymouth Sailing Club have been agreed and it is hoped to complete the renewal of their lease with an effective date of 1st January 2018, incorporating the relevant aspects of the review of the south shore of the harbour including re-allocating areas of water to best suit the needs of today and the future. Cllr Bruce, Chairman Harbour Management Board, attended a meeting with Weymouth Sailing Club on 17th August.

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.

FLAG

As a follow-on to the meeting held on 10th May with the Partnership, Dorset and East Devon FLAG team and local fishermen to discuss the scope of proposed improvements to be submitted as a bid for funding, it is has been decided to seek some external advice about fish landing facilities' design. A bid has been put to FLAG for funding for the study which will cover both the

current fish landing quay and any future plans. The bid will be considered in October.

There have been 2 FLAG Board meetings attended by Cllr C Huckle and the Harbour Master. Bids are now being considered by the Board. Any bids from individuals should be encouraged.

Committee update: There had been a FLAG meeting last night, attended by Cllr Huckle and Bob Summerhayes. The bid had been approved for £11,000 and would go to the next stage for rubber stamping. The Council would need to match fund.

Car Parking

North Quay car park was closed to the public as part of the redevelopment of the site. As the sale is now no longer going ahead it is hoped that the car park can be re-opened.

Committee update: car park should be opened by the end of the month with 40 spaces available.

North Quay Facilities

As the winter approaches we are starting to see 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.

Committee update: members were concerned about the number of homeless people in Weymouth, drug dealing and the image this projected. One of the Town Centre Manager's top priorities was to deal with this. The Harbour Master encouraged the group to let harbour staff know of any concerns and report issues to the Police, to dial 999 if serious or 101. He would ask the Police representative to try and attend the next HCG meeting.

Port Marine Safety Code Health Check

The MCA Health Check Team led by Captain Forkanul Quader, will be returning to Weymouth for a check on 16/17th November 2017.

PMSC Items

In early August a lady fell between her boat and the pontoon. The circumstances of the incident and the actions taken have been investigated and any points taken in to consideration. Some recommendations have been forwarded to berth-holders.

There have been 2 further recent occasions of people falling in the harbour. One was a consequence of excessive alcohol and the other an unfortunate sequence of events triggered by a medical condition.

There have been further incidents of PWCs being operated irresponsibly in the harbour and Bay. These actions have been discussed with some of the individuals concerned. Contact has been made with the Personal Watercraft Partnership to discuss if there are any improvements that could be made in our management of PWCs.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 17 to 30 Sep 17

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end September 2017	
No Visitor Nights	4806
% variance compared to 2016/17 (equates to £8,231)	Up 5.9%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 1%
No short stay (2016: 113)	103
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2016: 306)	414
No FOC on existing 4 for 3 scheme (2016: 35)	44

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 322 of 409 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 30 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 88 of 101 at end of period.

14. PMSC ISSUES

In response to a question regarding the number of emergency ladders on the pontoons, the Chair advised that there is a standard ratio requirement, the Harbour Master would review and check the ratio.

15. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

In response to a query for MCA annual medicals after the age of 65. The Harbour Master had raised the question with the MCA if this would change now that the retirement age had been raised to 68. The MCA replied that the question would be considered at a later date as other rules are currently being changed.

16. ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS

Mike Jury thanked the committee as this was his last meeting.
Lyle Stantiford thanked the Harbour Master for his support with the International Angling competition.

17. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group:-
24 January 2018 – 7pm
18 April 2018 – 7pm

Harbour Management Board:-
6 December 2017 – 3pm
21 February 2018 – 3pm

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 7.50 pm

Chairman

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