

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12 JULY 2017

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

Apologies: A Higgins

Also present: Cllr I Bruce, Fisher Associates (C Fisher, D Green, C Lisher)

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting): Keith Howarth, Nick Thornley

1. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 April 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

The minutes of the Harbour Management Board held on 28 June 2017 were received.

The Harbour Master welcomed Cllrs Cathy Page-Nash and Paul Kimber to the Group. Antony Frost, Sea Cadet Training Centre was also welcomed as a replacement for Tony Elgar.

4. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

A meeting was 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. A number of follow-on actions were recorded.

The harbour requirements including the fishing community are still being considered by the development consultants.

A further report was considered at Management Committee on 6th June and can be found at item 9 of the following link:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MIId=394&Ver=4>

Short and medium-term uses are still being sought for some of the area and buildings associated with the former ferry service. 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 28th June was considered 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 as soon as possible. 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.

Stone Pier

Some repairs have been completed on the inner groyne on the Stone Pier which is now more structurally sound.

Business Plan

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

- It is still expected that there will be a connection to the mains sewage for the Westwey Road toilets soon, which will remove the need for a sewage tank and empties.
- The slipway pontoons have been fitted with a water supply.
- The wood decking on North Quay pontoons will be surveyed and replaced where necessary in the next financial year.

The future of the harbour

The final of 3 HMB workshops took place on 1st February 2017. Chris Fisher of Fisher Associates provided advice on how his company could help in developing a long term strategy for the harbour. This is considered essential to sit alongside the Town Centre Masterplan in shaping the future for the town. HMB members supported the need for such a strategy.

A report covering the allocation of funds for an evaluation of opportunities to be derived from integration to the overall Town Plan scheme was considered and approved by Management Committee on 6th June. The paper can be found Item 9 at the following link:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MIId=394&Ver=4>

The HCG will be actively engaged in the process.

Maritime Events

Dates for the diary this year include:

- 8 – 9 July Seafood Festival
- 8 – 9 July Weymouth Dinghy Regatta
- 21 July Release date of Dunkirk film
- 15 – 16 August Carnival
- 2 – 3 September Weymouth Yacht Regatta
- 17 September Ironman 70.3

Maximum support is encouraged from harbour users.

Harbourside Watersports Clubs/Users

Some very constructive meetings have been held with Weymouth Sailing Club to discuss the renewal of their lease 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. It is hoped to finalise the lease in the near future as Heads of Terms have been agreed.

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

The Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) covering the area from Swanage to Beer now has a staff, Chair (Steve Postles, Fishermen's College) and Vice-Chair (Cllr Cherry Brooks, Purbeck District Council). Bids are starting to be submitted with the first formal meeting to consider 5 applications having taken place on 27th June. Any bids from individuals should be encouraged.

Car Parking

The discount scheme for annual marina berth-holders has been promulgated.

North Quay car park has now been closed to the public as part of the redevelopment of the site.

North Quay Facilities

We continue to experience 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.

Inquest Touching the Death of Louis Oliver Harris

The Harbour Master was due to attend the above inquest in Bournemouth on 2nd June 2017 but it has been postponed until 11th July.

Don't Feed the Locals Campaign

The harbour participated in the above campaign led by Dorset Litter-free Coast and Sea by hosting 2 stands on the Cargo Stage on Friday 2nd June. NBC Environment displayed 2 Harris Hawks which are used to deter seagulls and DCC also had a display. All harbour users are encouraged to support the campaign by not feeding the seagulls or leaving food out.

Fishing Gear

There continues to be regular incidents of boats being caught on fishing gear. The fishing community are encouraged to act considerately in the laying and marking of their gear. Fishing gear is also still being deployed in contravention of NTM 13/16, particularly near the harbour entrance where there should be a 3.5 cables zone from the Stone Pier Light.

Waste Management

Problems have been experienced with overflowing bins on both sets of pontoons. The number of bins on site and the scheduled empties has been adequate in the past. There needs to be a balance between paying for bins to be emptied when there isn't much in them versus having bins overflowing. Support in reducing waste is requested.

There are signs at the bins' areas that state what acceptable rubbish is and what is not. Dumped products are often being found that are not the harbour's responsibility to dispose of, examples include a fridge, fire extinguisher, tyres and waste oil. Additionally there are people bringing rubbish from other locations and fly-tipping. If anybody witnesses this occurring please do not hesitate to report it to the Harbour Office.

Maximum use should be made of the recycling facilities that are available.

If there are any issues with waste management please report it to the Harbour Office at the earliest opportunity so that action can be taken.

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 May a gentleman voluntarily entered the water in the Inner Harbour and despite a considerable search effort a body was recovered the following day.

There have been several incidents recently 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 31 May 17

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end May 2017	
No Visitor Nights	1093
% variance compared to 2016/17 (equates to £6,283)	Up 30%
% variance on 3 year average (does not incl. 2012)	Up 16%
No short stay (2016: 25)	25
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2016: 44)	70
No FOC on existing 4 for 3 scheme (2016: 21)	36

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 306 of 409 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 26 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 84 of 99 at end of period

5. PMSC ISSUES

As covered by the Harbour Master's update report above.

6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

A suggestion had been received for additional 'height under the bridge' boards at Westwey Road and North Quay pontoons. It was agreed to promulgate the link to the local tide gauge so that individuals can use that knowing their own height requirements as we would otherwise have too many boards around. The link is:

<http://www.ntsif.org/data/realtime?port=Weymouth>

Some boats on the new pontoons outside the Angling Club have been damaged and tampered with. It was stressed that any incidents should be reported to both the police and the Harbour Office. Customers should ensure attractive items are removed or stowed away.

7. ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS

Although it was recognised that there were some very positive aspects to the Seafood Festival and the value of it to the town, the following points were raised by the Group to be fed back to the organisers:

- The consultation prior to the event and particularly regarding the road closures was not sufficient. The RNLI and others on Nothe Parade were not approached.
- The times of implementing the road closures were not as defined in the traffic order with some areas being closed early.
- More consideration is required for the locals and businesses that are affected by the event. There are people around the harbour who are earning a living, which is seriously affected by the event.
- The event may be at the wrong time of the year. The town is already busy on a July weekend so the event should be used to extend the season.
- The build-up and breakdown have now significantly extended in to Friday and Monday making 4 days of disruption and not just the traditional 2.
- Different rules and procedures seemed to apply to the larger sponsors' stands than to the smaller organisations.
- The road closure map could be better so that the full implication on the town can be shown by a picture and understood. The seafront for instance had not been included.
- There were concerns for the safety of boats moored in the festival site due to people drinking, trespassing on pontoons and other misbehaviour.
- There were concerns that people were coming to the festival to drink heavily and that the trend was becoming similar to Trawler Race Day.
- There were concerns that travellers had visited the Festival and were causing some disruption.
- There were no stands selling wine, only champagne and beer.
- No wet fish was available to buy.

K Claydon raised an issue that the control of seagulls by the use of birds of prey is not effective after the bird control team have left. The Harbour Master agreed to discuss this with the contractor and report back to the Group.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group:-

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

Harbour Management Board:-

7 September 2017 – 3pm
6 December 2017 – 3pm
21 February 2018 – 3pm

9. FISHER ASSOCIATES LONG TERM STRATEGY WORKSHOP

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 9.05 pm

Chairman

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