

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2018**

**Present:** Cllrs K Baker (Substitute), D Caddy, A Clarke, T Day, S Goodwin, A Higgins, A Sargent, L Stantiford, T Studley and S Wakely (Substitute)

**Apologies:** Cllrs K Claydon, L Hopson and C Page-Nash

**Also present:** Cllr I Bruce, Cllr J Farquharson and J Pullin

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

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master)

**44. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Cllr Cathy Page-Nash sent apologies and Cllr Kerry Baker attended as her substitute.

PCSO Lucy Hopson sent apologies and PCSO Simon Wakely attended as her substitute.

**45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**46. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 August 2018 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbour Management Board meetings held on 13 and 26 September 2018.

The Harbour Master provided the following feedback on the last HCG Minutes:

- The feedback points on the Seafood Festival have been forwarded to the event organiser for consideration in planning for next year. It was commented that there are some changes to the event committee for 2019.
- There is an outstanding action for the Harbour Master to find the regulations on the marking of fishing gear and discuss the issue with Southern IFCA.
- There is ongoing work to consider the lighting along the Commercial Road berths.
- The concern regarding the stage for the Rendez-vous events has been reported as requested.
- The North Quay toilets/showers are operating with the ladies as a unisex facility over the winter.

**47. HARBOUR UPDATE**

## **Peninsular Development**

A funding proposal for Stage 1 of the Peninsula development has been approved by Full Council on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018. It was considered by Dorset Council Shadow Executive on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018 and approved.

A concept design was submitted with other papers for outline planning permission as application WP/18/00403/OUT in late May 2018. The application will be considered on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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 were worked through by the legal advisors and the MMO with only one remaining outstanding. The final approved HRO is not expected until mid-March 2019 due to MMO and Parliament timings and the Christmas break. 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 ownership of the harbour will transfer to the Unitary, Dorset Council, as a part of the Local Government Review with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. The future governance of the harbour is still being discussed including the status of this Group, although it is expected that the Group will be business as usual. Updates will be provided when available. It was explained that these are big changes within the various Councils, some staff jobs will be at risk and it will take time to settle down.

### **FLAG**

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.

### **Harbour Walls**

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

The tender process to select a building contractor to implement the repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps) has begun. The target for the repair work has now been delayed until Autumn 2019. Once 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. A tender process is in progress for a full walls survey, 5 years after the last one to identify any changes.

### **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 season. 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 have been replaced.
- Some refurbishment of the pontoons in the Outer Harbour will take place over the winter.

### **Maritime and Local Events**

Although the full list of events for the next year is not available yet, the following events dates are available to date for 2019, support is encouraged:

26 January	Weymouth RNLi 150 <sup>th</sup> Birthday. Crew dinner.
22 March	Weymouth RNLi 150 <sup>th</sup> Party - Pavilion
7 – 9 June	Poole Boat Show
23 June	Veterans and RNLi Parade
13 – 14 July	Seafood Festival
28 July	RNLi 150 <sup>th</sup> Boat Parade
8 – 9 September	Weymouth Yacht Regatta
9 – 12 September	European Fishing Competition
21 September	Squib South Coast Championships (WSC)
22 September	Ironman 70.3
25 December	Christmas Day Harbour Swim

Any planned event dates should be passed to the Harbour Master for inclusion.

There is no Beaulieu Boat Jumble in 2019.

### **Weymouth Sailing Club and Rowing Club**

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.

Weymouth Sailing Club intend to complete their Cove Project to install pontoons in the New Year.

### **Recent Thefts**

A number of vessels have been broken in to or had gear stolen from them along Commercial Road in recent weeks. Harbour users are advised to take their own sensible security precautions including removing expensive items, locking items away etc. Data-tagging items should be considered. Any incidents or suspicious activity should be reported to both the Police and Harbour Office.

Some advice was e-mailed to all customers on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

## 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. Police support is dependent on records of crime.

## Weymouth Water Safety Group

Hannah Wiggins-Bett, the Community Drowning Prevention Coordinator of the Royal Lifesaving Society has formed a Weymouth Water Safety Group. The inaugural meeting took place on 28<sup>th</sup> September. There was some good discussion about how various water safety messages can be delivered.

## RNLI Lifeboat Pontoon

The all weather lifeboat pontoon is being refurbished until mid December, 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/](https://marinelicensing.marinemanagement.org.uk/mmofox5/fox/live/MMO_PUBLIC_REGISTER/)

## PMSC Items

On 16 October a distressed lady drove her car through a security gate at the Commercial Area and in to the water off No.1 Berth. Fortunately she escaped safely and was taken care of by the emergency services. Her car, which was a potential obstruction in the harbour entrance, was recovered using a diving team and crane the following morning.

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

### Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end October 2018	
No Visitor Nights	4894
% variance compared to 2017/18	Down 1.0%
% variance on 3 year average	Less than 1.0%
No short stay (2017: 107)	248
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2017: 467)	382

### **Inner Harbour Moorings:**

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 263 of 411 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 29 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 86 of 105 at end of period.

#### **48. PMSC ISSUES**

There were no further PMSC issues.

#### **49. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**

Lyle Stantiford raised the issue of how Group representatives reach out to their respective audiences. There was a general discussion about how to disseminate information and also how to collect thoughts and points from the stakeholders they represent. It was felt that there was room for improvement. The discussion also highlighted that the Group's page has disappeared from the Dorset for You website Committees pages.

The Harbour Master offered help with contacts list to Group members. He would also follow-up the issue of website information, approaching Group members as necessary for permission for contact details promulgation.

Kathy Claydon forwarded some concerns from Inner Berth Holders. In summary the three issues were:

It is felt that the Council moorings, although cheaper than D&R do not represent value for money.

What action is being taken to fill the empty berths, which if filled would reduce the need to increase fees?

If berth-holders have issues, who should they raise them with, as the Councillor that one of the customers wrote to did not respond?

The Harbour Master agreed to provide written responses:

It is recognised that there are differences in the services provided between D&R marinas and Weymouth Harbour pontoons, notably parking being the biggest factor. The harbour team strive to review the differences to minimise them and to look for opportunities to enhance the offer. There are some unique selling points though that remain attractive.

There has been significant marketing effort in various media for both visitors and longer term berth-holders to try to attract customers, indeed the Group were shown a very good current article in Sailing Today. Harbour staff have also attended a number of shows and events to try to generate customers. The 2017/18 season saw the best

occupancy since 2013, peaking at 80%. The 2018/19 season has not been so good so it is hoped the momentum can be re-gained. An offer was recently made to those on chain and sinker moorings and the associated waiting list but there was little take-up. A further offer is now being considered to attract new customers for the next season and details will be released soon. Unfortunately the letting of berths at North Quay and Westwey Road is also not straight forward due to the hereditary issues of the infrastructure including berth sizes and depths of water.

If berth-holders have issues they should raise them to their Harbour Consultative Group representative or direct to the Harbour Master. If Councillors are approached it is hoped that they would pass on the messages to the Harbour Office but it is always worth copying the Harbour Office as well to ensure a response is given. The appropriate Councillors should be chosen, either Harbour Consultative Group or Harbour Management Board members.

#### **50. ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS**

The Harbour Master presented a concept diagram for the harbour aspects of the Peninsula development. This was debated and some first impressions passed. Group members were asked to look to the future. The Harbour Master would appreciate any further feedback from members when they have had a chance to think about it and discuss with their stakeholders.

Terry Studley asked what the benefits are of Weymouth Harbour becoming a trust port. A harbour removed from the influence of politics and with total financial independence are the highlights. The current liabilities for harbour walls were identified though as a restriction on progress. It was explained that this is a long term goal.

Lyle Stantiford said that he wished to stand down from the Group due to his increased national commitments. He thanked the Group for their support and cooperation and felt that the Group was very useful. The Chair thanked Lyle for his commitment and wished him well. Jamie Pullin was accepted and welcomed as his replacement with Luke Pettis as his substitute.

Terry Studley raised the subject of the poor state of the public toilets around the harbour, particularly those on St Edmund Street. The use of the toilets by drug users was also dis-tasteful and intimidating, not a good example to visitors and locals.

#### **51. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

19 February 2019 7pm – to be confirmed. An amended date from 20 February.

**Duration of meeting:** Times Not Specified

**Chairman**

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