

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018

Present: D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, T Day, A Frost, S Goodwin, A Higgins, P Kimber, C Page-Nash, A Sargent and T Studley

Apologies: L Stantiford

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)

26. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Lyle Stantiford sent apologies and Jamie Pullen attended as his substitute.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

28. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 January 2018 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbour Management Board meetings held on 2 February and 21 February 2018.

29. SEAFOOD FESTIVAL PRESENTATION - ROGER DALTON

Roger Dalton and Brian Cooper organisers of the Pommery Seafood Festival attended the meeting and gave the group a presentation on the event.

Points raised included:-

Alcohol issues – this year it would only be Pommery and Hall and Woodhouse who could sell alcohol for consumption from stalls.

Security - £8000 was allocated for security and road closures.

Toilets –This year there would be the additional toilet facilities at the Pavilion already in use and local pubs were being asked to join the “use our loo” scheme.

Safety – only one pub had refused to use plastic glasses.

In response to a query regarding some small stall holders being displaced by the larger ones – the group were advised that many stall holders keep the same pitches but arrangements were subject to change.

It was suggested that the festival organisers could liaise with the Local Authority in respect of making arrangements to keep the public toilets clean and usable over the festival period. This would be good for the area as a

whole, the reputation of both the Council and the Festival and would be investigated.

There was concern over the sale of alcohol and alcohol related behaviour and in response to this Pommery had put restrictions in for this year and it was hoped to have a larger police presence on the harbour for the festival.

Roger would look into an issue of stalls setting up early and vehicle access for local businesses.

The Harbour Master would disseminate the proposed road closures to the group.

30. **UPDATE ON WEYMOUTH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB - ALICE HIGGINS**

A Surf Life Saving Club has been set up on the beach for 7year olds plus. Separate from the RNLI lifeguards currently in place.

The aim of the club is to promote beach safety to the local community. With the opportunity to train on the beach for both fitness and fun - as well as the potential to become qualified beach lifeguards when 16+.

There will be a Nipper group for 7-12 year olds on a Saturday morning (10:00 to 11:30) to learn basic water and first aid skills between June and September 2018 and May and September 2019 (tying in with the RNLI Lifeguards operational hours).

A group for 13-15 year olds with a 3 year graduate life guard training programme (11:00 to 12:30 Saturday mornings) which would lead to a surf lifeguard assessment and an internationally recognised qualification which can be taken at 16. Wednesday evening training 17:30 to 19:00 for 16years+) as well as ad hoc training for Masters (30+) including links with the Weymouth Bay Sea Swimmers at Greenhill.

The project has been supported by the Beach Manager, Harbour Master, RNLI (Lifeboat and Lifeguards), Jurassic Jet ski co, Supanova fishing charters, Kate Mason swimming, Jurassic Coast Activities, and The Thomas Hardy School. Sponsorship has been received from 109 Watersports and applications for funding sent to both Sport England and Awards for All Big Lottery Funds (still waiting to hear if been successful). Additional sponsorship and promotion is still being sought to buy first aid training equipment such as CPR mannequins.

The club is being advertised on social media, with free taster sessions/sign up opportunity being held on Saturday 19th and 26th May from 11:00 to 14:00hrs. With members sessions starting from the 2nd June. Training will take place on the beach in summer and at Osprey during the winter. Different membership fees apply to the different age groups, operating as a non-profit organisation but finance still needed to maintain kit etc. For visitors there will be a surf cadet programme in the summer with £10 charged for a 1.5 hour programme.

The Harbour Master offered to advertise the club on the Harbour website.

31. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

There was a public consultation on the concept plan for the Peninsula development which took place on 14th and 15th March 2018 in the Commercial Road Offices. A questionnaire for feedback was available until 6th April.

Work continues to prepare a concept design which is suitable for submission for outline planning permission, which will hopefully be by May 2018.

Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

The Full Council (as the Statutory Harbour Authority (SHA)), after recommendations from the Harbour Management Board and Management Committee, on 22nd February 2018 approved that in so far as they have power so to do they agree and otherwise support:

- 1) An application being made to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) for an HRO to consolidate and modernise the applicable statutory harbour legislation.
- 2) Delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director with responsibility for the Harbour in consultation with the Brief-holder for Finance and Assets, the Brief-holder for Leisure, Tourism and Harbour, and the Harbour Management Board, to determine the wording of the Harbour Revision Order for submission to the MMO.

The reasons driving the Harbour Revision Order (HRO) are:

- 1) Local acts governing the harbour are old and fragmented.
- 2) There are no powers of general harbour direction; the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) points to these being necessary.
- 3) There are a range of powers lacking around jet-skis and those watercraft not defined as vessels.

A new HRO will give a set of rules for the harbour which are consistent with good practice and will modernise what is currently in place. It will also enable the SHA to enter into leases and disposal of land. The HRO will be open ended/not time bound and will give a general power. There will be a 42 day public consultation built into the HRO process and the Council will receive a list of all comments. Members were advised that a Harbour Authority could not dispose of so much land that it was unable to function as a harbour. Money earned from the harbour would be ring fenced and re-invested into the

harbour. The general directions in the HRO will enable the SHA to set up and maintain the harbour functions for many years.

The HRO will just give the SHA powers to do what needs to be done, individual operational decisions will follow later and will be consulted on.

Commercial Road Development

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

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 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. Only if it makes sense will the recommendation be implemented.

FLAG

The report from a study by a Fisheries Consultant to refine the statement of requirement of the commercial fishermen who operate out of Weymouth Harbour is expected. This has been supported by FLAG funding. Local users have been consulted. The outputs from the report will then be used to inform the next stage of the Peninsula development at Weymouth.

A bid has been made to the MMO for wider funding support from the European Fisheries Fund for a number of the elements of the fishing facilities in the Peninsula project. There is though a relatively short timescale for the bid to be matured adequately for acceptance, approval and the commitment of expenditure. If the target dates are not met it is hoped the bid can be used to apply for Coastal Communities Funding or the potential successor to the European Fund.

FLAG Board meetings continue to be attended by Cllr C Huckle and the Harbour Master at which bids are considered by the Board. £15K was awarded to Weymouth Fishermen for safety equipment.

Harbour Walls

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

A consulting company continues to develop a repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps), making more use of the existing structures and having less risks. Investigative works are expected to take place in April which may cause some minor disruptions to the Cargo Stage and road area. The target for the repair work remains Autumn 2018.

Recent monitoring has not indicated 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 has become more complex than anticipated.
- The wood decking on North Quay pontoons has been replaced on Arms A and C.
- An e-system for managing visiting vessels is being developed, which it is hoped will be in place for Summer 2018.
- Further WiFi coverage is being investigated.
- It is hoped to start replacing some of the electricity pedestals on North Quay pontoons.

Regrettably the extreme cold weather caused some damage to water systems, which have taken time to have repaired, especially Westwey Road toilets.

Maritime Events

The following events are planned for 2018 and support is encouraged:

22 April	Beaulieu Boat Jumble
26 – 27 May	Fayre in the Square
1 – 3 June	Wessex Folk Festival
8 – 10 June	Poole Boat Show
23 – 24 June	Armed Forces Day Celebrations
7 – 8 July	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta
14 – 15 July	Pommery Dorset Seafood Festival
14 – 15 August	Weymouth Carnival
8 – 9 September	Weymouth Yacht Regatta
23 September	Ironman 70.3
25 December	Christmas Day Harbour Swim

Weymouth Sailing Club and Review of Harbourside Watersports Facilities

Dorset Councils Partnership's legal department are still drafting the new Weymouth Sailing Club lease from the agreed Heads of Terms.

An MMO Marine Licence and an EA Permit have been approved for the proposed works to fit pontoons in the Cove area of WSC's moorings. Progress is dependent on a signed lease.

The Rowing Club lease will be reviewed shortly.

Weymouth & Portland Tourism Partnership

The Tourism Partnership has been temporarily suspended whilst there are discussions between the group and the BID.

North Quay Facilities

We continue to find 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.

Reporting Incidents

All harbour users are encouraged 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.

Contacting the Harbour Office

Some recent incidents have highlighted the need to clarify how to contact the Harbour Office. The following advice is provided:

- **In an emergency or if there is a serious incident.** Call 999 and ask for the Coastguard if the incident is in any way water-related. The Coastguard will contact any other emergency services (police, ambulance, fire, lifeboat) that are considered necessary. The Coastguard will also contact the Harbour Staff if appropriate, especially if the Harbour Office is closed.
- **When the Harbour Office is open.** Please report equipment defects, non-serious incidents and any other useful information directly to the Harbour staff either in person or on 01305 838423.
- **When the Harbour Office is closed.** There is an answer machine on the Harbour Office number 01305 838423 so a message can be left and it will be actioned at the earliest opportunity when the office re-opens. Consider sending an e-mail via the Weymouth Harbour website <http://www.weymouth-harbour.co.uk/contact/> or directly to weymouthharbour@dorset.gov.uk . Consider waiting and making a call when the office is open.
- **Dorset Councils Partnership.** Contact details for Council Services are found on the Dorset for You website and specifically for Weymouth and Portland Borough Council <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/article/418031/Contact-Weymouth--Portland-Borough-Council>. If considered necessary the Harbour Staff will be contacted by the Out of Hours Service. In order to provide the best service, it is preferred that any messages are given directly to the Harbour staff using one of the above routes rather than via the Council numbers.

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Health Check

The MCA PMSC Health Check Team led by Captain Forkanul Quader visited Weymouth for a return check on 16/17th November 2017 to conclude their original PMSC Health Check undertaken in 2015. The 12 month return visit was postponed due to MCA staffing issues.

The MCA concluded:

“Whilst some specific amendments were identified, in general it was seen that a substantial and well documented approach had been taken towards drawing up a Safety Management System and associated operating procedures.

A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the harbour to set up an effective Marine Safety Management System, risk assessment and supporting documentation. This is credit to the HM and his team.

In general, from the areas which the Health Check covered, WHA appeared to have policies and procedures in place which supported compliance with the PMSC. It is to be noted that PMSC ‘health check’ was a sampling process and a snapshot of the port as it was found at the time of the visit. There are elements of good custom and practice occurring at the port which should be reflected in the Marine Safety Management System to ensure consistency and accountability”.

The points identified by the MCA can be easily rectified.

PMSC Items

The use of flares on any occasion apart from an emergency is illegal and irresponsible, it could put somebody who’s life is already in danger in a more serious situation. Parachute flares can be seen for a considerable distance. The actions of some individuals during the recent Fishing Protest generated a significant number of 999 calls to the Coastguard.

All vessels should monitor VHF Channel 12 when they are transiting or operating within the limits of Weymouth Harbour. This allows safety information to be passed or for vessels to be contactable if needed.

Outstanding Item from 24 Jan HCG Meeting

The reason that only daily slipway parking is available is due to the inability to manage numbers in the area available if there were an increasing number of longer term permits available. If the permits were issued, there would have to be a guaranteed number of spaces in a limited area.

There is an outstanding item to look at lighting along some of the quaysides.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 17 to 31 Mar 18

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end March 2018	
No Visitor Nights	5223
% variance compared to 2016/17 (equates to £7,885)	Up 3.7%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 1%
No short stay (2016: 127)	118
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2016: 328)	444
No FOC on existing 4 for 3 scheme (2016: 80)	44

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 252 of 410 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.

The Harbour Master introduced Dave Brown a PSCO from the Marine section who addressed the group. He advised that marine based crime accounted for 1% of Dorset Crime but he felt that not all crime was being reported and encouraged the group to do so. Crime could be reported online, via the 999 emergency number or on 101 if a non emergency. An online site “AskNED” offered advice and information for most police issues.

He stressed that all crimes must be reported in order to get more resources.

He also gave a brief update on the town centre. There had been 12 cases of Section 35 Anti Social Behaviour issues. Homelessness was still a problem in the town, as was a number of drug takers in the North Quay area.

32. PMSC ISSUES

There were no PMSC issues.

33. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Tim Day from the Sailing Club thanked those who had helped with the incident on Monday and Andy Sargent asked for beach/safety messages to be pushed after the tragic death of a 5-year old girl that day at Durdle Door.

Kathy Claydon suggested that the Harbour Office answer machine message should give details about contacting the Coastguard in the event of emergency (Post meeting Note – this has been actioned.)

34. ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS

35. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

29 August 2018 7pm
14 November 2018 7pm
20 February 2019 7pm

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.50 pm

Chairman

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