

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2017

Present: D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, T Elgar, S Goodwin, A Higgins, M Jury, T Pavey, A Sargent, L Stantiford and T Studley

Apologies:

Also present:

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

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master), Stuart Johnson (Berthing Officer), Simon Powell (Berthing Officer), Jan Ridd (Berthing Officer), Nick Thornley (Head of Economy, Leisure & Tourism) and Elaine Tibble (Democratic Services Officer)

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

10. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 October 2016 previously circulated were agreed.

The minutes of the last meeting of the Harbour Management Board were received and noted.

The group were pleased to note that their comments about the Ironman event had been well received by councillors and that changes would take place for the next event. Also that in 5.4 of the Harbour Management Board minutes, £180K was being removed from the harbour budget.

In response to a query regarding the reduction in the employee budget the Harbour Master advised that this was still under discussion, property and berthing issues still had to be managed.

11. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

On 13th December, Management Committee discussed and approved a further paper regarding the future plan for the Peninsular. It can be found at item 19 of the following link:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MIId=195&Ver=4>

Short and medium-term uses are being sought for some of the area and buildings associated with the former ferry service with some occupation already. The longer term plan is for the development of the peninsula as part of the Town Centre Masterplan whilst aiming to incorporate any harbour requirements.

Commercial Road Development

On 8th November, Management Committee discussed and approved a paper regarding the future plan for Commercial Road. It can be found at item 67 of the following link:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MIId=393&Ver=4>

Lyle Stantiford spoke as a member of the public about his concerns the development might have on the charter boat businesses operating along Commercial Road.

Harbour Walls

An update on the harbour walls is expected for the Harbour Management Board on 22nd February.

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 in Autumn 2017. Work is ongoing with external contractors to develop the design and refine the costs. There may be some ground investigations taking place in early Spring but little impact is expected for harbour users. 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.

Business Plan

The current focus of the work on the 2014 – 19 Harbour Business Plan Recommendations still remains the updating of the Safety Management System. The next stage is to review the risk assessments and associated work instructions, procedures and records.

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

- It is hoped to refurbish the toilets on the Westway Road pontoons soon. This will include connection to the mains sewage which will remove the need for a sewage tank and empties. A break tank has already been fitted to the fresh water supply.
- A new electric metering system has been fitted to North Quay pontoons, Westway Road pontoons and some commercial berths on Custom House Quay. This is a card based system with customers

buying credit on their cards at the Harbour Office. Some refinements for the pricing regime have been made after some customer feedback.

- Some pontoon lights have been replaced on the Cargo Stage and Custom House Quay.
- It is intended to replace the fire extinguisher bollards on North Quay pontoons.
- The slipway pontoons will be replaced in the next couple of months. 2 additional fingers will be added to increase berth availability. This will hopefully include providing a water supply to these berths.
- The wood decking on North Quay pontoons will be surveyed and replaced where necessary in the next financial year.

Harbour Budget

The Scale of Charges for 2017/18 were approved and promulgated at the Harbour Management Board on November. The details can be found at item 23 of the following link:

<http://moderngovdcp.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=186&MIId=298&Ver=4>

Maritime Events

Dates for the diary this year include:

- 23 April Beaulieu Boat Jumble, Harbour Office stand
- 19 – 21 May Poole Boat Show, Harbour Office stand
- 8 – 9 July Seafood Festival
- 21 July Release date of Dunkirk film
- 15 – 16 August Carnival
- 9 – 10 September Waterfest
- 17 September Ironman 70.3

Maximum support is encouraged from harbour users.

Harbourside Watersports Clubs/Users

Work has re-started to review all the arrangements for the agreements, leases and licences for those organisations on the south shore of the harbour and to try to negotiate a way forward with the aim of re-allocating areas of water to best suit the needs of today and the future. A refreshed allocation of water for Weymouth Sailing Club, Weymouth Rowing Club, Sea Cadets and Weymouth Outdoor Education Centre has been proposed to the clubs and organisations. This has been agreed in principle. The first package of work is with Weymouth Sailing Club.

This will also include the RNLI's needs as they are looking to complete changes by 2019 for their new Inshore Lifeboat which will not fit in the current boatshed.

Dredging

A marine licence has been granted by the MMO to dispose of the material from dredging of the harbour over the next 5 years. The dredging itself will be conducted using an exemption which applies due to the legal acts associated with the harbour. The extent of the dredging will be dependent on the funding available.

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.

Fishing Gear

In the Port. The work to reorganise the amount of fishing gear stored in the former Port Restricted Area has made considerable progress. There still remains too much gear for the space available and so the next stage is to encourage owners to rationalise their equipment. It is ultimately intended to develop some fixed-size bays which will be available for rent subject to terms and conditions to be finalised. There will be no gear allowed outside of the bays.

On the pontoons. Positive steps have been taken to rationalise the gear stored on the pontoons after the near-miss incident. There is a constant need to maintain this higher standard.

In Weymouth Bay. A revised Notice to Mariners (Weymouth 13/16) regarding fishing gear in Weymouth Bay and Harbour has been issued. This has been a compromise to try to meet the needs of several communities and all harbour users are asked to comply.

Illegal imports including people smuggling

Project Kraken has been re-launched. All harbour users are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. The Border Force have increased the number of vessels they operate so more regular patrols can be expected.

Weymouth Main Beach RNLI Red/Yellow Flagged Zone (NTM 5/16)

The flagged zone as a safe swimming area that is protected by lifeguards and other criteria on Weymouth Main Beach has proven to be successful and effective. It is intended to continue with the procedure in future years but not to extend it to the Greenhill area, which will be operated as per 2016.

FLAG

The Dorset and East Devon Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) covering the area from Swanage to Beer has been accepted and received financial backing. Staff recruitment is now taking place prior to commencing their new role.

Car Parking

The points raised at the last HCG about parking costs were raised to the Harbour Management Board and to the Head of Parking. It has been suggested that a specific permit type could be considered if there was a unique need identified. It is still planned to conduct a parking survey of berth-holders and harbour users.

North Quay Facilities

We are experiencing 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.

Harbour Staff

Rebecca Mustoe is away from the office on maternity leave.

Christmas Swim

395 swimmers successfully crossed the harbour on Christmas Day, a record number for the event.

Diving Regulations

A revised set of diving regulations have been issued with an associated Permit to Work. All diving operations will be required to meet the regulations.

PMSC Items

There are no further PMSC Items to discuss at this stage.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 16 to 31 Dec 16

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end December 2016	
No Visitor Nights	4866
% variance compared to 2015/16	-4
% variance on 3 year average (does not incl. 2012)	-4
No short stay (2015: 105)	122

No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2015: 262)	328
No FOC on existing 4 for 3 scheme (2015: 97)	52

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 262 of 409 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 83 of 91 at end of period

Actions from update

Harbour Master to check position with road closures around Custom House Quay. It was suggested that the Secretary of State may need to be contacted in order to close the road more than twice in a year.

Post Meeting Note – Dorset County Council have confirmed that for any more than 1 event the SoS permission is required. This is done as a block request at the start of the calendar year based on the events calendar but further submissions are made as required. There are no restrictions on the numbers and there have never been any requests rejected.

12. PMSC ISSUES

There were no PMSC issues to discuss.

13. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

L Stantiford had attended and spoken at Management Committee with regard to the peninsular development. He felt it would be useful to have someone involved with the project in attendance at the Consultative Group meetings.

The Harbour Master explained the hierarchy within the division and that N Thornley worked under the Strategic Director who was responsible for the peninsular project. The Harbour Master worked for N Thornley and was also on the project team for the peninsular so was the voice for the harbour and users.

Cllr G Taylor had suggested that officers dealing with the re-development come to the Consultative Group meeting but the officers felt it was too early at this stage. The Strategic Director understood the importance of linkage with the group and would attend meetings with both Harbour Consultative Group and the Harbour Management Board once more information was available and before a decision was made.

Both the peninsular and Commercial Road schemes would go to consultation as part of the process and there would be updates as things progress.

Concerns were voiced that development could be detrimental to the harbour.

The Harbour Master advised the group that if they had discussion with any of the members to let him know so that he can follow up if they didn't receive responses.

14. **ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that he was a member of the Weymouth Area Tourism Partnership which included various people from the leisure industry and heads of tourism. His role in the Partnership was to communicate what happens in the harbour.

The partnership's aspiration was to go forward with large projects and get funding from the LEP, for which the partnership would be required to match fund. He asked the group to let him know what they would like from the Tourism Partnership.

Currently it was only the Weymouth BID who had been given funding for tourism, there would be a re-ballot in a year and a half and it would be helpful to be in a position to put forward ideas as to what they would like for Weymouth. Partnerships have a better chance of getting funding given.

The group were asked to forward any ideas to the Chair of Harbour Consultative Group or to the Harbour Master.

Two of the issues of concern for the group were the toilets and parking around the harbour area.

The Harbour Master updated the group on the peninsular. He explained that he was part of the project team and asked the group for their views on the proposed layout of the development. He felt that the restaurant and boutique hotel were too close to the harbour edge, he would like to see a road along the harbour side.

T Studley felt that the fisheries zone was too small and that more consultation with FLAG and the other harbour users was needed.

A Sargent agreed that the whole area for commercial activities was very small, there was no room for a lift/craned area to get boats out of the water and there was a requirement for an area to work on boats.

A launch area on the peninsular would be welcome.

The Head of Leisure and Tourism pointed out that this was designed as a leisure development but nothing had been agreed yet which was why the group was being invited to put forward ideas.

Members of the group felt that a maritime themed leisure area would be a good idea.

AOB

It was noted that this was the second meeting in a row with no councillors in attendance. The Head of Leisure and Tourism agreed to investigate to ensure support going forward. The group felt the Councillors should be subject to the same terms as group members

In response to a question about harbour walls the Harbour Master advised that the Harbour Management Board would get a report at their next meeting and it was requested that the Consultative Group were notified when the Harbour Management Board agenda was published.

With regard to the berthing agreements, the Harbour Master advised that renewals had been delayed until the end of January as they were hoping to have an electronic system in place. Paper copies would be sent if this was not ready and a decision made by the end of January.

Post meeting note – e-mail renewals will be used this year,

M Jury proposed that Andy Gaunt was to take over from him on the group when he leaves.

It was also suggested that it would be useful for the harbour users to know how long the parking at North Quay would be available.

Post meeting note – It has not yet been decided and depends on the plans of the developer. Negotiations are ongoing to try to extend the life of the car park as far as possible.

Post meeting Note – Thanks go to T Pavey for all his work on the group over the years.

15. **DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday 12 April 2017 – 7pm

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.30 pm

Chairman

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