

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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018

Present: D Caddy, A Clarke, K Claydon, T Day, A Frost, S Goodwin, A Higgins, 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)

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 October 2017 were agreed as a correct record. The Group received the minutes of the last Harbour Management Board meeting, held on 6 December 2017.

20. PRESENTATION ON THE WEYMOUTH SAILING CLUB COVE AREA

The group received a presentation from Commodore Euan McNair of the Weymouth Sailing Club regarding the proposed fitting on pontoons in the Cove area in place of the existing pile moorings.

21. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

There have been no further public meetings or announcements regarding the Peninsula development. Work continues to prepare a concept design which is suitable for submission for outline planning permission, which will hopefully be in April 2018.

Harbour Revision Order

Authority is being sought from the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) 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. Further, to facilitate the Peninsula re-development scheme by giving the power to be able to dispose of harbour land where there is no longer required for harbour purposes as might be necessary.

Commercial Road Development

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

Fisher Port Future Project

A report will be made to the next Harbour Management Board on the report of the study in to the future of the harbour by Fisher Associates. This report will outline the projects that have been suggested and how these will be reviewed and then taken forward. A briefing will be given at the next Harbour Consultative Group meeting.

FLAG

FLAG funding has been approved for a study by a Fisheries Consultant to refine the statement of requirement of the commercial fishermen who operate out of Weymouth Harbour. Expert external advice is required to make the most of the opportunity, as the modern standards in the industry are not fully known locally. The consultant will cover both the current fish landing quay and any future Peninsula plans. Local users have been/will be consulted. The report will also include some strategy, supported by SWOT analysis of the local industry and some stakeholder consultation. The outputs from the report will then be used to inform the next stage of larger peninsula development at Weymouth.

A recent discussion with the MMO has given some positive indications of possible funding support for a number of the elements of any projects to modernise and enhance the facilities for the fishing industry. Dorset Coast Forum are assisting on a bid to the MMO for such funding, linking the above project work and the Peninsula development. There is though a relatively short timescale for a bid to be made, approved and the commitment of expenditure. It is hoped to have the initial bid with the MMO in January 2019.

FLAG Board meetings continue to be attended by Cllr C Huckle and the Harbour Master at which bids are now being considered by the Board. Any bids from individuals should be encouraged.

Harbour Walls

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

A consulting company has now been appointed through the SCAPE framework to investigate a further repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps), making more use of the existing structures and having less risks. The details of the proposal will be made available as soon as practical. Investigative works are expected to take place in the Spring which may cause some minor disruptions to the Cargo Stage area. The target for the repair work is 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 has been surveyed. It is intended to replace the decking on Arms A and C in the next few months.
- 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 also being investigated but there is no timescale yet for this.

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
14 – 15 July	Pommery Dorset Seafood Festival
14 – 15 July	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta
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 drafting the new Weymouth Sailing Club lease from the agreed Heads of Terms. It is hoped to complete the renewal of their lease soon with an effective date of 1st January 2018.

The Rowing Club lease will be reviewed shortly.

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.

The Chairman gave an update and reported that the Partnership meetings had not been well attended. The Partnership Chair had resigned but the aims of the group had been discussed and it was hoped that more members would be on board and more progress made by the next meeting.

The Harbour Master and the HCG Chairman were looking at schemes to get more people using the harbour and ways of publicising the various ways to get out on the water including trip boats, charters, sailing instruction, jet skis, fishing trips etc.

Car Parking

North Quay car park has been re-opened whilst the sale of the building and site is re-considered.

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.

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Health Check

The MCA PMSC Health Check Team led by Captain Forkanul Quader visited Weymouth for a check on 16/17th November 2017. The final report is still awaited.

Weymouth Harbour Berth Renewals

The berth renewal process will begin soon for Weymouth Harbour berth-holders. This will be completed more on-line this year. Customers are also encouraged to accept e-billing.

PMSC Items

Nothing to report.

Outstanding Question from 11 Oct HCG Meeting

Question - 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.

Response - The industry standard is to have 1 ladder per 30 berths. In practice North Quay and Westwey Road have over the requirement but the pontoon layout diagrams require some corrections, which will be completed. This has therefore been a useful exercise.

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

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end December 2017	
No Visitor Nights	5047
% variance compared to 2016/17 (equates to £7,885)	Up 4%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 1%
No short stay (2016: 122)	110
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2016: 328)	432
No FOC on existing 4 for 3 scheme (2016: 52)	44

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 275 of 410 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 30 of 30 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 89 of 101 at end of period.

22. PMSC ISSUES

There were no PMSC issues.

23. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

It was agreed that the format of the meeting would stay the same, as a non-public discussion group.

If substitutes require a copy of the agenda, when published, group members would email the Democratic Services Officer to advise and confirm email address.

In response to a question asking why annual dredging was not carried out in Weymouth as it was in Lyme Regis, the Harbour Master advised that the work carried out at Lyme Regis was more land re-shaping than proper dredging.

Following a request to look at the slipway permits, the Harbour Master would look into the possibility of different lengths of permit terms.

In relation to the 10% increase for commercial mooring fees it was felt by some users that this would be justified if the facilities had improved. Grant funding streams for the harbour were sometimes resourced on the strength of the fishing industry. The Harbour Master informed the group that the Fisher Study offering was still awaited. Fisher felt that the prices should be double

that currently charged. There would be more information at the next HMB meeting.

24. ANY OTHER FUTURE BUSINESS

The lack of security lights at berths near Cousins Quay car park was raised.

In response to a question about increases to the pricing scheme for storage of pallets of fishing gear, the Harbour Master said the information had been included in the scale of charges previously sent out.

Some of the harbour users and fishermen felt less safe since the departure of the rescue helicopter and asked if it was possible to look into a scheme similar to one in Plymouth whereby 80% grant funding was awarded towards life jackets and the Council paid the remaining 20%.

The Harbour Master responded that FLAG had mechanisms in place to provide match funding if the group wanted to put forward a group bid for items of equipment. The Harbour Master would provide information if the fishing rep came to the Harbour Office..

25. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 18 April 2018

Duration of meeting: 7.00 - 8.15 pm

Chairman

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