

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHHCG)
Wednesday 16th February 2022 (Teams, 19:00-21:00)

Present

Ken Buchan	KB	Head of Environment and Wellbeing
Cllr Mark Roberts	MR	Chair of Harbours Committee
Jamie Joyce	JJ	Weymouth Harbour Master
Andy Sargent	AS	RNLI Representative and Chair
Dave Caddy	DC	Harbour Traders Representative and Vice Chair
Dave Brown	DB	Dorset Marine Police
Tim Day	TD	Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Dave McCune	DM	Inner Harbour Users Substitute Representative
Neil Bedwell	NB	Boatfolk Mooring Representative
Will Lawrence	WL	Training Establishments Substitute Representative
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Town Council Beach Office Representative
Jamie Pullin	JP	Charter Boats Representative
Jon Ayling	JA	RNLI Substitute Representative
Mary Harris	MH	Harbour Traders Substitute Representative/Weymouth Harbour Watch
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

AS welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Apologies received from Cllr Colin Huckle unable to attend.

Dave McCune attending as substitute for Inner Harbour Users, apologies from Kathy Claydon unable to attend.

Jamie Pullin apologised for not being able to attend previous meetings

Steve Goodwin has resigned with immediate effect.

Interest as substitutes from Elaine Farquharson and Dan Bell. **AS** will follow up.

Belated apologies from Andy Alcock unable to attend as the substitute for Commercial Fisherman representative due to technical issues.

Dawn Health unable to attend, on holiday.

All attendees introduced themselves to Will Holmes and Will Lawrence, new members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

AS confirmed no comments had been received regarding the previous minutes that were circulated and they were then presented to the Harbours Committee Meeting.

4. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE

The beginning of the year has seen Harbour Staff being very busy, with the Mooring Officers dealing with record numbers of applications for both recreational and commercial berths. And Berthing team have completed more than 300 defects around the harbour throughout the year and that's directly proportional to the age of the infrastructure. We are now focusing on undertaking the large-scale maintenance projects and that includes repair of the S Arm Marina walkway and the cargo stage pontoons.

- Conservancy - A Dredge contractor has been secured to conduct plough dredging at the entrance, between the piers and along commercial berth 1 it will commence the week of the 28th of March and expect to take 3 to 5 days. A Notice to Mariners will be issued closer to the time and will be dependent on weather and conditions.
- Staff - We will shortly commence the recruitment process for front office staff and an Assistant Harbour Master. The objective of recruiting for these positions, will be to improve service delivery to our customers, communications, the provision of cover to facilitate training, staff progression, annual leave, and sick leave.
- Environmental - Bunkering Procedures: We've started the process of creating bunkering procedures. A safe code of practice has been developed for bunkering procedures based on industry standards and will be implemented for commercial vessels in particular undertaking refuelling. This will consist of a checklist for operators to follow and provide information on actions to be undertaken in the event of a spill. This will also coincide with the development of an online bunkering notification system hosted on our website to allow responsible persons involved in commercial activities to easily notify the Harbour of their intention to conduct bunkering operations.
- Slip Way and Car Park – Working with our engineers we have produced 45° angle parking at the slipway and to accommodate both the vehicle and trailer in the same space, which represent an improved service offering to our slipway customers as opposed to the old methodology of having to disconnect your trader and then find a separate car parking bay. It is also anticipated that this will free up spaces in the Cosens quay car park that these customers would have utilised, allowing more charter customers to park at Cosens Quay.
- Commercial road bin - A cover and lockable keypad have been installed to ensure that the bin is only utilised by the commercial operators only. Will confirm separately with JP that his colleagues have been made aware of the padlock code by Harbour staff.
- Commercial Licence berths at Kings Arms Steps (Mackerel Steps) – All the berths along this location have been marked out to ensure all operators have the appropriate space available to operate from. Except for the end berths there is a 2m gap between each operating berth to allow for easy access. Following the last meeting there was also a question regarding the construction of the steps at this location. The steps have been assessed by DC engineers and have been found to be constructed within code guidelines. The relevant information has already been passed to the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the persons who raised this issue. The pile guides and connectors have also been repaired along this section of pontoon, along with the commercial fishing pontoons next to the bridge.
- Commercial Licences - Where licence issues were raised at the last meeting, a meeting was held to discuss the actions that had taken place following a report of a breach of a license, and it was shown that those actions had been taken within 24 hours of receiving the complaint. This year we will be inviting all our Council issued Licenced Operators and their staff to the Harbour office to present all their in-date qualifications and commercial certificates. We will take this opportunity to run through the individual licence conditions, to ensure that everyone has a thorough understanding of the licensed parameters they are working under.
- Fish Landing Quay – A temporary repair of the electrical switch on the davit has been completed but we are awaiting a replacement component to complete the repairs fully. The davits are in operational order currently.
- Marina Facilities - The ladies' facilities at North Quay has undergone refurbishments with two shower cubicles being replaced and both hand dryers to be replaced along with the lights being rewired. The heating elements at both male and female facilities have also been repaired. A barrier has been placed at the bottom of the ramp at North Quay to prevent accidental falls at this location. A light audit was conducted, and any non-working lights have been replaced. All four new

trolleys are now in place along with two of the older trolley being refurbished. The team is working through this period repairing any loose planking and fibreglass boards. Once this work is complete, they will be conducting a deep clean with power washers throughout the pontoon system.

- Water supply delivery issues at North Quay - Our contractors have replaced the North Quay water delivery pumps, tested the electrical systems and both have been proved to be in working order. The issue of sporadic water delivery at this location has arisen from an increase in, vessel sizes which have larger capacity holding tanks and draw more water. This with the combination of a new pump delivering water at a much higher pressure has resulted in the break water tank draining more frequently and setting off the pressure sensors for the pump. The solution is a larger break water tank and our contractor has secured one and will be soon delivering that to site and completing the installation. We will confirm when it is completed. The hot water facilities at Custom House Quay have now all been replaced with a new boiler system. We have now got a higher-pressure system which has been a complaint over past years that the water pressure hasn't been that great within the Custom House Quay and it also will represent a saving with new a more economical boiler system.
- Quay Regeneration development - As we previously reported the peninsula project construction had commenced with wall repairs being conducted at Walls 9 and 10 which is the wall between the RORO and Alpha pontoons. We were made aware two weeks ago that our Principal Contractor MIDAS was going into administration, and this resulted in work being stopped. Since this time, we have been working with the subcontractors to arrange a direct award to carry on with the initial wall repairs. that TMS services commence work on the 14th of Feb with a view to completing this work within 4 to 5 weeks. I will continue to update on their progress as we move from the wall repair phase at the work to the public realm improvement and commercial.
- **JP** – Advised issue with Commercial Road bin lid and maintaining it in an open position when trying to put rubbish in. **JJ** confirmed contractors had since been back to install struts to hold the bin lid open allowing for more accessible rubbish placement.
- **AS** – Enquired on the extend of the silting in the harbour entrance. **JJ** confirmed around 10/15 cm over the course of the year, the plough dredging should reduce it.
- **KB** – Confirmed that regarding the situation created with MIDAS going into administration, the next step would be to identify another contractor, but it will push work back about 3 months. As it will essentially mean starting from scratch again and getting all the costings together for the public realm, commercial area, and the fish landing quay works, it will push it back a few months, but the intention is to still move ahead.
- **WL** – Enquired about the piles on the Pleasure Pier. **JJ** confirmed that a meeting is due regarding them and an update will be provided at the next meeting.
- **TD** – Asked about the state of the Sand Jetty area of the harbour walls. **JJ** advised that it is covered in the Harbour wall engineering survey and it is currently in good condition but will be monitored as the timbers on the outside are deteriorating.

5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **AS – RNLI.** The Atlantic 85 Weymouth lifeboat naming ceremony is due on the Saturday the 9th of April at #4 berth (old Condor offices area) at 13:00hrs. Invitations to be sent out for the ticketed inside event, though the public can come along and support it outside. The RNLI had 72 service calls last year between their 2 vessels at Weymouth. These calls included despondent people and the start of this year the ILB has been called out 7 times, 6 of them for despondents. Last

year the ILB saved 1 life and assisted with 20, the ALB saved 7 and assisted with 36. Recent calls to assist with open water swimmers in Newtons Cove and the signage there is going to be reviewed. Lifeguards on Weymouth Beach will in situ from April around Easter until the 25th of September except for being closed for a few days and commencing again on the 30th of April. Greenhill will have Lifeguards from 9th of July until the 4th of September.

- **NB – Boatfolk.** Boatfolk are close to capacity for their marina and are expecting another 9 vessels to arrive at the start of the season.
- **DM – Inner Harbour Users.** Nothing to report.
- **JP - Charter Boat Associations.** Charter vessels getting ready for the new season and there will be the Reel Masters show at the Pavilion - Europe's largest saltwater angling predator competition and show from the 30th of September to the 2nd of October. Full competition dates will be supplied at the next meeting.
- **WL - Training & Education Schools.** Sailing Centre programmes filling up and preparing for the season, the Sea Cadets likewise.
- **TD - Clubs of Weymouth.** Rowing Club pontoons are back in the water though the attachments to the harbour walls are still being worked on, the WSC vessels will be back in the water from the beginning of March. The racing marks will be laid prior to Easter and that's when the clubs will start racing again in the Bay. A full list of events will be supplied to the HM once finalised.
- **TS - Fishermen & Charter Boat.** Not present
- **DC - Harbour Traders.** Three Harbour side businesses have won Dorset Tourism Awards. Weymouth Bay Rib Charter got the Resilience and Innovation Gold award, Nothe Fort got Small Visitor Attraction of the Year Gold award and the Ebike Cafe got the Café/Tearoom of the Year Bronze award. The pavement along Custom House Quay is slowly coming along but is good to see the local businesses now using it.
- **DB – Dorset Marine Police.** Ongoing issues with poaching out of Weymouth but not reported through Weymouth. Trying to base themselves out of Portland once a week. A new PC starting next month to support Dave and they would be happy to attend events and clubs to talk to people and be seen. A few reported thefts from the Ferrybridge but nothing out of Weymouth.
- **MR – Harbour Committee.** A full Dorset Council meeting in person has taken place and proposed budget and fees for the harbour was unanimously supported. The Strategy for all 3 Harbours is being put together by a graphic design team and will be an online PDF. This will then go to the Harbours Committee on the 16th of March for approval and then up to full Council for approval. Three members of the Committee, me, the Vice Chairman and one of the Independent Members, Lee Hardy, spent the day interviewing prospective candidates, and we were able to select two very good candidates who will be joining the committee. Pleased to see the resolution of the situation with the sunken vessel Gitte, incredibly professional teamwork from our harbour staff and also the work they did to contain any possible pollutants, which was really good, probably the best bit for me though for the Harbours Committee, is that the insurers have covered the entire cost other than our excess, and they're hoping that they may be able to get that from the owners at some point. West Bay update, the piling it they're currently working on that in the eastern side of the harbour. The oak piles are being replaced. Lyme Regis has a new hard standing for dinghy and tender racks and that's working well as freed up a lot of extra space for car parking for harbour users.
- **MH – Weymouth Harbour Watch.** Facebook community page is now live – please like and promote. Website is still being finalised with correct protocol for reporting to be confirmed with **DB**. Roundels to be produced for Boatfolk promote. Incidents within the harbour still need to be reported to the Harbour Office.
- **WH – Weymouth Town Council Beach Officer.** Nothing to report as quiet currently – **AS** already provided Lifeguard updates.

KB – Wished to thank you to everyone for promoting the consultation run in October through to December. It was an 8-week consultation and got a reasonable return on it with around 1000 people accessing the information with just under 500 downloading the document. That translated into around about 80 direct respondents across all the harbours. A lot of good information coming from people and a lot of support for the strategy. The Strategic goals and actions in there will become available just prior to the to the next committee meeting and you'll be able to see them.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- None presented

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **MH** – Raised concerns about traffic and pedestrians along the south side of the harbour with the eating out seating still present. Disappointed that the licences have been extended until September and that no member of DC Highways Team was present at the meeting. **MR** has offered to pass on concerns to the Highways Team. **DC** also commented on rumours about the road becoming a one-way street only.
- **TD/AS** – Next meeting face to face – **SJ** to investigate locations and hybrid options.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 11 May 2022

Harbours Committee

- 16 March 2022
- 15 June 2022