

Weymouth Harbour Consultation Group (WHCG)
Thursday 17th November 2022 (WTC Chamber and Teams, 19:00-21:00)

Present

Dave Caddy	DC	Harbour Traders Representative and Vice Chair
Cllr Rob Hughes	RH	Vice Chair of the Harbours Committee
Ken Buchan	KB	Head of Environment and Wellbeing
Dave Brown	DB	Weymouth Assistant Harbour Master
Cllr Colin Huckle	CH	Weymouth Town Council Representative
William Lawrence	WL	Training & Education Schools Representative Substitute
Tanya Budd	TB	Centre Manager of WOEC
Tim Day	TD	Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Callum Seggie	CS	Training & Education Schools Representative
Tony Hurley	TH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Substitute Representative
Alan Hale	AH	Boat Owners/Non-Commercial Moorings Representative
Mary Harris	MH	Harbour Traders Representative Substitute and Weymouth Harbour Watch
Rob Gray	RG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative
Terry Studley	TS	Commercial Fishermen Representative - outgoing
Andy Alcock	AA	Commercial Fisherman Representative – incoming
Jamie Pullin	JP	Charter Boat Associations Representative
Dan Bell	DB	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Representative Substitute
Amanda Anderson	AA	Resilient Communities Co-ordinator – Dorset Police
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

DC welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

Apologies from Neil Bedwell, Will Holmes, Christopher Peck, Alison Roberts, Dawn Heath, Cllr Mark Roberts, Luke White and Andy Sargent.

Amanda Anderson - Resilient Communities Co-Ordinator from Dorset Police Presentation regarding new Harbour Watch.

- Due to launch April 2023.
- It will be messaging service to allow members of the marine community to communicate/advise others of things going on.
- It will be GDPR protected.
- Security services will be able to acquire intel from the app.
- Any crimes will need to still need to be reported to 999/101.
- The app will enable communities along the Dorset coast be able to share information.
- Roadshows will be set up to encourage uptake when launched.

AA – To provide more information as it becomes available to be shared with the group.

MH – To look at putting links to the app on the Weymouth Harbour Watch website and FB pages.

DC – thanked AA for the presentation.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

DC confirmed no comments had been received regarding the previous minutes that were circulated.

DC/CH followed up regarding the flooding under the Town Bridge. **DB** confirmed that they found rope in the drain during the works and removed. Damaged drain still needs to be fixed. Report from **DH** – drainage repair dates to be confirmed.

CH – railings that have now appeared on the Town Bridge, not mentioned before. **WTC** contacted DC Highways. **DB** confirmed that they have been added to prep for the remainder of the bridge work. DC Highways need to issue press release to advise public.

4. WEYMOUTH HARBOUR UPDATE

- **Town Bridge** – Repair work has started though the decision to install railings has been made halfway through to provide a benefit for the remaining work when carrying it out. Issues relating to this will be made aware to Highways in due course. They are ready to relay the asphalt and should open ahead of schedule unless the weather turns. Once open it will return to the hours' notice for a lift and the online booking form will be active again.
- **Port Waste Management Plan** - has been renewed and will run until 2025
- **Oil Spill Response** - has been renewed with Adler & Allen, we have Gold cover and a discount on insurance for next year.
- **Staff** - We are currently interviewing for Harbour Master and Assistant Harbour Master as Matt Brown resigned.
- **Sea Hives** – The four that were installed under the Pleasure Pier, one has been moved to another area due to wear on the chains. Another is now on the seabed again due to the chains wearing faster than anticipated. Awaiting Sea Life Centre to come back to us regarding them.
- **Pleasure Pier** - The handrails are in disrepair and surveys have been carried out, there is a lot of fencing gone up, but we hope to keep it open. There is budget to repair the railings and discussions are ongoing with Dorset Council about this. It was closed off in the summer due to antisocial behaviour, safety concerns and requested by the Police.
- **Aids to Navigation** – The white flashing light on the Stone Pier has failed and a replacement is to be provided by NAVMORE by the end of the month. There is a temporary one in place at the moment but only has a range of 5 miles. A Notice to Mariners was issued and Trinity House has been updated. Due to the weather a damaged VHF aerial at the Harbour Office has affected communication to the Harbour Office. It has been repaired but if anyone has any communication issues, please let us know.
- **Harbour Works** – Surveys have been completed around the harbour and walls for the flood and coastal erosion risk management team. These should provide 3D images of the harbour when the report is received.
- **Loop/Tramway Car Park** – Rescheduled works for the trip hazard and rail filling has been completed. **JP** confirmed that the material used would not be sufficient to remain, with **AA** advising that resin should have been applied. **DB** to review and feed back to Highways.
- **Peninsula Development** – Knights Brown will be on site soon and will advise when works will begin. Infrastructure placement has been discussed with a project manager. **TS** raised concerns over the budget due to price rises and delay of works starting. **KB** confirmed that budget has been squeezed but the fundamental aspects of the project will still go ahead with items being removed, such as a new Harbour Office etc; to ensure that the Fish Land Quay and fuel bunkering still are provided. **TS** advised that any chiller equipment will need to be of good quality to ensure it does not become corroded by the salt water quickly and need replacing within 2 years. **KB** will feed this back to the project manager.

- **Commercial Berths** – Recently completed the 16 & 32 amp electrical supply to the commercial pontoons East of the Town Bridge with 75% of the funding towards the project from the fisheries and Seafood Sea scheme.
- **Visitor Pontoons** – Replacement of the pontoons should start at Christmas and be completed before the summer season starts.
- **TH** – raised the question about moving the area where the visiting fairs set up from the front car park at the Pavilion due to complaints received from the hoteliers along the roundhouse area. DB advised that discussions would take place with WTC and the fairground owners regarding the use of the Peninsula car park and charges.
- **AA** – asked if the new cameras mounted around the harbour were webcams or CCTV. DB confirmed that the 2 cameras on the Pleasure Pier are CCTV cameras and all the cameras around the harbour are now working.
- **JP** – confirmed that during the bridge works the potential damage to vessels has not happened and appreciated all the extra support in ensuring that this was minimised.

5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **DC on behalf of AS – RNLI.** Jon Ayling has stepped down as Substitute. Quiet at the moment, though since the last meeting the ILB has had 20 shouts saving 2 lives and the ALB 12 shouts including 2 French fishing vessels mid channel, one on fire and the other sinking. The lifeboat station is planned for refurbishment in 2023. The ALB has had a double engine replacement after losing oil pressure on a shout. And their Christmas Carol service is planned for Friday the 16th of December.
- **RG – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Nothing to report.
- **AH – Boat Owners/Non-Commercial Moorings.** Nothing to report.
- **JP – Charter Boat Associations.** Nothing to report.
- **TD - Clubs of Weymouth.** The clubs are coming to the end of their season, the rowing club will keep going throughout the winter. The WSC have a sailing regatta on the 3rd of December with about 20 dinghies out. Season ends on Boxing Day with a sale up the Harbour and there may be some pyrotechnics let off but will inform the harbourside community when confirmation has been received.
- **CS – Training & Education Schools.** Starting to wind down for the winter looking at maintenance. Introduced Tanya Budd as the new centre manager and working closely with the other centres.
- **TS - Fishermen.** Concerned about a missing buoy from harbour entrance. One missing from the Degaussing range Notice to Mariners from Portland Port covered this. **AA** raised access to the emergency pumps now situated on the Leisure pontoons. **DB** confirmed there are emergency contact details on them, and they are for Harbour Staff to operate when assisting boat owners. If their use is required, then to call the number listed for staff to assist.
- **DC - Harbour Traders.** The cafes have shut up for winter until Christmas, but the south side of the harbour is busier at the moment.
AR – Dorset Marine Police. Read by **SJ** – updates Op Seagoing / Op Seabird (Police /MMO / Sifca / Coastguard / PHC / BCP) between May – August 2022 there were 20 reports of ASB from PWC's, 5 x Slipway engagements - Poole / Xchurch / Weymouth, 5 x Water patrols (2 x FSG) – Poole / Xchurch / Weymouth covering Byelaws / Water safety / crime prevention advice. The outcomes from this were that 262 people engaged with on land, 28 engagements on the water, 19 verbal warnings, 1 warning letter, 0 section 35 dispersals, PHC - 3 x PWC & 1 x speed boat prosecution and 3 X Paddle boarders saved by FSG from the path of the condor ferry. Crime Stats since August 2022 - **Theft** 10 reported with Weymouth & Portland 0 (apart from the 2 recently reported). **Criminal damage** 6 with 2 in Weymouth - Harris fencing on the pier damaged by youths – issue with CCTV storage and Pontoon lights – No evidence. **ASB** 3 in Weymouth - Youths untying boats – name checked and dispersed,

ASB PWC – PCSO attended, no concerns re manner of driving at the time. Unable to engage due to being land based. ASB PWC – Words of advice given during Op seagoing with Wey Assistant HM. Ongoing response: Work being carried out to rejuvenate Christchurch and Poole harbour watch including working more with Weymouth. Ongoing joint water patrols with Sifca & WHM when conditions allow. Ongoing investigations into marine nominals seeking to take action against them for any offences (land or water based) / develop intel. Joint operation with FSG in the planning stages for multi-site operations throughout the winter for thefts from boats. Regular land patrols of boat yards and yacht clubs during evening shifts – application for drone work over these sites and associated berths will be submitted for consideration during winter months. Prevention engagements – seeking to educate members of public regarding security and byelaws on the water. Op seagoing continuing into 2023.

- **MH – Weymouth Harbour Watch** – Progress has slowed down, but the website and communal Facebook page is up and running. Wanted to confirm with Amanda Anderson on how to report incidents and get response that are not crimes but should be aware of prior to the Harbour Watch App coming online in April next year. **JP** raised the Ask NED online help system and **DB** confirmed that it had been removed from but would point you in right direction, continue reporting events to 101 and 999 when required. The more reports will encourage more action/patrols. **AA** advised of numerous crimes within the harbour reported over the years that had not led to any convictions. **CH** offered to raise these concerns at the next meeting held in January with various authorities.
- **RH on behalf of MR – Harbours Committee.** At the last meeting Cllr Ray Bryan who was the brief holder for harbours, was also appointed as the key person. So funding and improvements can be authorised a lot quicker. **KB** to provide more detail in the agenda item.
- **TH – Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users.** Nothing to report but confirmed that they needed to improve liaison with the stakeholders going forward.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **DB – Application for water sports operation at Greenhill.** The proposal was passed around the group for comment. **DB** to speak to the existing operators at Bowleaze Cove.
- **DC – WOEC portacabin on Stone Pier area.** Contacted the Harbours Committee about who was responsible for the area. Claire Connolly at the Harbours Office has organised for the area to be cleared up. **TB** confirmed that the land is owned by Dorset Council and Darryl Tidd – Senior Commercial Surveyor will be looking to organise the works to block of the area behind the portacabin. A joint response will then be provided. **KB** advised that if persons camp in the area again then the DC contact regarding assistance for them is Melissa Johnson.
- **DC – Harbour Office restructure and management update.** **KB** confirmed that at last full council meeting a paper was presented around the governance of the harbour. The Harbours Committee, which is the duty holder for the harbours, deal with issues and then make recommendations to the Full Council. The Harbours Committee is made up of elected and independent members. Dorset Councils constitution states that they can only make decisions within the budget, which is set by full Council. If there was ever an emergency situation presented which required a significant amount of money to resolve it quickly, the Harbours Committee would not be in a position to approve it. Legal advice was provided that recommended that the Committee with their limited financial powers and co-opted members should not be Duty Holders. The harbours have now become an Executive function of Dorset Council which means it is the Cabinet that would then become the duty holder and by delegation the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel and Environment. With the new governance

structure, if the portfolio holder attends the harbours committee, decisions can be made and signed off immediately or very soon after. Or indeed, if there's a decision which requires over half a million pounds worth of investment or expenditure that can go to Cabinet. This means it will be a much quicker process.

- **AS/DC – Chair and Vice Chair terms.** **KB** acknowledged the Chair and Vice Chairs current tenure was taken on when there was a lot of change happening within the harbour and their leadership has helped steer the group to be able to raise its concerns and issues with the Harbour Team and Dorset Council directly. Since the last meeting some concerns had been raised about the Terms of Reference and their completeness. There are outstanding questions for example about the period someone can act as a substitute and whether this is the same as a full representative, or if someone who has sat on the group previously could come back to the group after a break following the maximum six-year period on the group. It was recognised that when the Terms of Reference were written for the new council in 2019 and were a combination of existing terms from the predecessor councils, and in some areas may not be fit for purpose. The Terms of Reference will need to be updated. With regard to the existing position of Chair and Vice-Chair it was suggested and agreed by the group that the current Chair and Vice Chair continue with their current tenure for the full 3-year term until February 2024 but in that time canvass for replacements. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed and updated for agreement by the Committee and Duty Holder.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **SJ** – Report from DH items had been covered with the exception of a temporary closure of Cove Street for Carols in Hope Square, not date was given.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 8 February 2023 at Weymouth Town Council Chamber and online via Teams.

Harbours Committee

- 8 December 2022
- 15 March 2023