

Present

Tim Day	TD	Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Ed Carter	EC	Weymouth Harbour Master
Dave Caddy	DC	Vice Chair and Harbour Traders Representative
Andy Alcock	AA	Commercial Fishermen Representative
Alan Hale	AH	Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative
Rob Gray	RG	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Simon Kershaw	SK	RNLI Representative
Paul Swain	PS	Boatfolk – Weymouth Marina
Callum Seggie	CS	Training, Education & Schools
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch
Adrian Best	AB	Dorset Marine Police / Dorset Police

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

TD opened the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rob Hughes, Cllr Kate Wheller, Ken Buchan and Matt Piles.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

TD asked if anyone had any points from the previous minutes.

SK Made a correction on item 5 of the minutes, stating that it should say volunteers not employees.

4. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

1.0 Harbour Use

EC delivered an update on Weymouth harbour, in which he provided details on the mooring occupancy for commercial and leisure berths. The latest statistics were provided, which showed that the harbour was 8.8% ahead on visiting leisure revenue compared to the previous year, although revenue from the slipway was declining. The number of non-resident fishing vessels was up, this was mainly due to one boat in particular and a better reporting system being implemented. It was also noted that the revenue from visiting craft remained ahead of the 2023 profile.

2.0 Incidents

2.1 There had been 11 incidents since the last meeting, including, someone jumping into the harbour, a vessel striking mooring buoy, someone sleeping in the shower block, a vessel fire from a bad battery installation, fencing washing up onto the beach and a couple of reports of diesel fuel spills on the water. The updated incident reporting system was now up and running, making it clearer what incidents were happening and where they were occurring, this would be rolled out to Bridport and Lyme Regis.

3.0 Operations

3.1 Oil Spills & Response

The oil spill response plan had been reviewed and renewed.

There had been a spill early in the new year and letters had been sent out to berth holders to remind them of their responsibilities of handling oil correctly. It was noted that oil spills are difficult to prevent as unless the team can see a definitive problem then all they can do is react quickly when the spill occurs.

4.0 Other Harbour Updates

The HRO had been submitted, which would restrict Weymouth Open Port Duty to 24m, to allow the harbour to choose whether to allow large ships to enter the harbour, in order to save costs on having to facilitate larger vessels. This was set to go out to public consultation later in the year.

Various training was set to take place including, Harbour Masters training in Southampton, ensuring senior staff were conducting enforcement correctly, an incident investigation training course and a gas safe training course. It was hoped that this training would allow the harbour staff to conduct more roles in house and prevent outsourcing.

Harbour Assist was in the process of being procured to help streamline and modernise the harbour management system, however the process had been delayed by going through Dorset Councils procurement procedure.

An update was provided on the removal of the pilotage function in Weymouth harbour. It had been concluded that it was no longer financially viable, as demand for pilotage reduced and the cost of providing pilotage outweighed any potential revenue benefit. The harbour was consulting with the Department for Transport to ensure that the pilotage function would be removed.

5.0 Harbour Works

5.1 General Works

EC The winter maintenance repairs were underway. Wessex Water had visited the site and outlined areas in need of repair, which had now been addressed to ensure the harbour was fully compliant. Emergency ladders had been fitted onto pontoons. The Harbour Office had been redecorated the harbour office. Pontoon access gangways were scheduled to be installed for March. The North Quay shower block

was set to be renovated with a contractor having been contacted to carry out the work. As much of the work was being done in house as possible, to save on costs.

6.0 Upcoming Events

EC Provided an update on the events that had taken place since the last meeting as well as the upcoming event. He noted that the seafood festival would not take place this year due to space constraints.

5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **SK – RNLI.** There had been 12 launches since the last meeting, including an angling boat on the shambles that was assisted back to port and a couple of instances of emergency beacons. The police had been involved in several of the callouts.
- **PS – Boatfolk Weymouth Marina.** They had had a busy winter getting the site ready and there was a positive uptake in numbers and the tracking was ahead of last year. Customers were commenting on the high cost of maintaining and running vessels. The Boatfolk Group had been put up for sale and it was expected to be sold in the next 6 to 12 months. It was hoped that new owners would bring further investment to the business.
- **RG – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** No update.
- **AH – Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative.** No update.
- **JP - Charter Boats.** Not in attendance.
- **TD – Clubs of Weymouth.** The rowing club were continuing to go out when the weather allowed and the sailing club was still going out on Saturdays.
- **CS – Training and Education Schools.** Not in attendance.
- **WH – Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative.** They were in the process of conducting normal planning ahead of the summer season.
- **AA - Commercial Fishermen Representative.** No updates.
- **DC - Harbour Traders Representative** It was a quiet time of year for traders. Restaurants were in the process of trying to find staff ahead of the summer, however there were concerns over the National Minimum Wage and National Insurance increases. Concern was also raised about the lack of transport for people disembarking cruise ships, as Portland harbour was unwilling to invest in a new system at this time, that would bring more visitors into Weymouth.
- **MH – Weymouth Harbour Watch** The season had been quiet, so the usual duties were being carried out.

- **AB – Dorset Marine Police / Dorset Police** The Marine Unit was growing in terms of vessels, due to funding from the Home Office, which resulted in two new vessels. Crime had been low in the area and users were being encouraged to report anything out of place. Project Kraken was still in place and the Harbour Watch and Boarder Force could receive reports of incidents.
- **RH – Harbours Advisory Committee.** Not in attendance. **EC** on behalf of Rob, noted that the adverts were out for two new co-optees for the Harbours Advisory Committee.
- **KW – Weymouth Town Council.** Not in attendance.

6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

DC:

- Town Bridge Drain – The Town Bridge drain was being looked into and the amount of flooding was being observed to assess if any further action was needed.
- Sand Jetty Structure – Engineers had assessed the structure and stated that there is no cause for concern at this time.
- Radipole Lake and effects on harbour (foam, water quality, silt) – The recent weather and time of year has resulted in the situation, however due to environmental concerns it was unlikely that dredging would be a suitable solution.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

EC – An additional meeting could be set up for the future to involve Matt Piles from Dorset Council as he was unable to attend this meeting.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 21 May 2025
- 20 August 2025
- 12 November 2025
- 11 February 2026

Harbours Advisory Committee

- 05 March 2025
- 11 June 2025
- 17 September 2025
- 03 December 2025
- 04 March 2026