

**Present**

|                   |    |  |
|-------------------|----|--|
| Tim Day           | TD | Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative       |
| Ed Carter         | EC | Weymouth Harbour Master                          |
| Cllr Rob Hughes   | RH | Chair of the Harbours Advisory Committee         |
| Dave Caddy        | DC | Vice Chair and Harbour Traders Representative    |
| Andy Alcock       | AA | Commercial Fishermen Representative              |
| Ken Buchan        | KB | Head of Environment & Wellbeing – Dorset Council |
| 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                              |
| Cllr Kate Wheller | KW | Weymouth Town Council                            |
| Jamie Pullin      | JP | Charter Boat Representative                      |
| Paul Swain        | PS | Boatfolk – Weymouth Marina                       |
| Jamie Thornton    | JT | Dorset Marine Police                             |

**1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

**3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

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

**EC** Provided an update on the progress of CCTV installation that was raised at the last meeting. The installation of CCTV cameras was being assessed and would be tied into the general marina improvements, however in the meantime fake cameras were being considered to act as a deterrent.

The Harbour team had also been making sure to check for equipment being stored on the pontoon, while carrying out their daily checks.

11 Bikes had also been taken away that hadn't been tagged and were being stored so that the owners could collect them.

Having assessed the situation, it was not considered appropriate to install a latch on the gate house, as had been suggested, as it was thought it would cause additional problems.

It was not currently possible to install a new pontoon near the main slipway, as it would require a marine license and the feasibility of going through that process would be looked into.

The correct sized ladders couldn't be procured, therefore existing ladders were being retrofitted to fit in the new location, this would also have the benefit of saving costs.

#### **4. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE**

##### **1.0 Harbour Use**

**EC** delivered an update on Weymouth harbour, in which he provided details on the mooring occupancy and noted that the harbour had become less active going into the colder months. Water sports permit revenue was in decline and fewer vessels were going through the bridge, likely due to the number of recreational vessels that were staying in the marina and not leaving. The number of visiting fishing vessels remained high, although this was partly attributed to a single vessel visiting a large number of times. It was also noted that the Sailing Club had recently obtained a marine license for improvements to their pontoons and this work was set to commence in December.

##### **2.0 Incidents**

2.1 The Harbour team had recorded 13 incidents since the last meeting, including a grounded vessel near Osmington Mills, which due to the location has been unable to be removed, however debris that has been able to be accessed such as, oil, fuel and batteries have been removed. Other incidents include: a vessel ground in Weymouth Bay; a person falling from a mobility scooter; a vessel tangled in fishing nets; a small diesel slip and some hull damage to a vessel.

**EC** shared some statistics that had been gathered through the improved incident reporting system, which would allow the team to analyse the data to draw more information on what type of incidents are happening, the frequency of them and where they are located.

##### **3.0 Operations**

###### **3.1 Oil Spills & Response**

No oil spill or pollution events that required external notification occurred.

##### **4.0 Other Harbour Updates**

The Animal and Plant Health Agency had conducted an audit on our Port Waste Management Plan and the harbour was found to be fully compliant, with the only recommendation being to add signage in the reception of the harbour office, which was set to be installed.

New photos were going to be taken by the National Coastwatch, of the charter and commercial vessels, to replace the old photographs, to allow easier identification by volunteers at the Portland Bill watch station.

## 5.0 Harbour Works

### 5.1 General Works

**EC** Delivered an update on the general harbour works, which were on going or recently completed. The winter maintenance schedule was set to be busy and included various repairs across the harbour, such as, renovating the North Quay Gatehouse, repainting access gangways to pontoons, renovating the North Quay shower block and redecorating the harbour office reception. It was explained that these works would be carried out in-house where possible, as it was more cost effective.

Building N was set to be renovated and turned into a lettable space and interest had been shown from a Dorset based marine aquaculture company to let the space once renovated.

Regarding the Weymouth Quay Regeneration Project, **EC** explained that SSE were set to connect the site to the grid at the end of November.

The fuel pontoon was installed in September and a few issues were being resolved before the pontoon could be officially commissioned.

A bathymetric survey was set to be carried out to get a better picture of the condition of the marina and the results of the survey would come back in the next few weeks.

## 5.0 Upcoming Events

**EC** The only upcoming event was the Christmas day swim.

Several members of the group raised a concern around vessels using the harbour in the dark with no navigation lights and described a near miss with another vessel as a result. In response, **EC** stated that they would investigate the issue.

**AA** Raised an incident of a fisherman slipping and falling off a pontoon, due to the lip of the pontoon being slippery when wet. **EC** confirmed that they would look into solutions to prevent a similar incident happening again.

## 5. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

- **SK – RNLI.** There had been a slight downturn in launches, with 12 in September and 10 in October. They were also recruiting for a couple of positions due to employees retiring or leaving.
- **PS – Boatfolk Weymouth Marina.** Raised an ongoing issue of the effects from the sluice gates opening, causing foam that boat owners have complained about. In response **EC** confirmed that he would investigate the issue to get a better idea of what was happening.
- **RG – Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels.** Reported that figures for

some of the port harbour trips were down by a third compared to last year, with peak periods being heavily focused around school holidays.

- **AH – Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative.** Reported that a berth holder had mentioned the theft of a boat during the school holidays and **EC** confirmed that this had not been reported to the harbour office. **EC** also explained they would consult with the Moorings Officers to ensure the rules were being applied fairly to all vessels.
- **AA (on behalf of JP) Charter Boats.** Thanked the Harbour Master and the harbour team for helping to facilitate events and noted that the biggest competition this year consisted of 15 boats.
- **TD – Clubs of Weymouth.** The sailing clubs' race was set to take place on Boxing Day. It was noted that the Weymouth rigs would now be stored on the versadocks.
- **CS – Training and Education Schools.** **EC** delivered the update on behalf of **CS**. They were moving to their winter routines with less activity going on overall. Activity would now be centred around the weekends. There was also concern raised over the brickwork being washed out in the dinghy park and this was being investigated.
- **WH – Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative.** Reported on the successful Water Fest event that took place in September, as well as a successful bonfire night.
- **AA - Commercial Fishermen Representative.** An issue was raised around some harbour users washing down their vessels on the slipway and leaving behind the resulting debris. It was also questioned why leisure vessels were allowed to do this while commercial vessels couldn't. In response **EC** stated that he would look into the current regulations and confirm what was allowed on the slipway.
- **DC - Harbour Traders Representative** October had seen steady business, although the colder weather was resulting in a quieter period. It was also requested that the harbour users be consulted in ongoing conversations around Customs House and North Quay.
- **RH – Harbours Advisory Committee.** Reported that the Harbours Advisory Committee members had attended a site visit of Lyme Regis and Bridport harbours, so that they could see the situation in each of the harbours.
- **KW – Weymouth Town Council.** Dorset Council's new five-year plan is being written and will recognise Weymouth as one of the key areas of need and potential, however there was a lack of marine business mentioned. **KW** encouraged harbour users to respond to the public consultation of the five-year plan to emphasise the needs of the harbour.

## 6. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

There were no other agenda items from members.

#### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A question was raised around the repair of the peninsula wall. **EC** confirmed that it was currently out to tender for contractors to carry out the repair works, it was hoped that it could be carried out in early 2025. While the work was carried out the car park would be, at least, at half capacity.

#### **8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

##### **Harbour Consultative Group**

- Tuesday 11th February 2025

##### **Harbours Advisory Committee**

- 4 December 2024
- 5 March 2025