

## WEYMOUTH HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2019

**Present:** PCSO D Brown, A Clarke, T Day, A Frost, A Higgins, D McCune (substitute for K Claydon), J Pullin, M Ryan (Weymouth Town Council), A Sargent, T Studley

**Apologies:** D Caddy, K Claydon

**Also present:** J Ayling (new substitute for RNLI), B Cooper (Seafood Festival)

**Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):**

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master)

#### 1. **Apologies and substitute members**

K Claydon sent apologies and D McCune attended as his substitute. J Ayling attended as the new replacement RNLI substitute in place of M Wright.

#### 2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 3. **Minutes and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 February 2019 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbour Management Board meeting held on 20 March 2019.

#### 4. **Seafood Festival 2019 Brief - Brian Cooper**

Brian Cooper updated the Group on the preparations for this year's Seafood Festival on 13th and 14th July 2019. Some of the key points covered were:

- Some of the organisers have stood down after several years of service and for 2019 there is a new team parented by Resort Marketing.
- Pommery have ended their sponsorship of the event after 9 years. It is good news that Nyetimber, who produce English sparkling wine, have agreed to be a major sponsor in their place. Nyetimber have a classic 'London bus' that they will be bringing to the event and will be located in the Pavilion Forecourt.
- There will be some changes to the event in particular with some additional music. There will be a Puppet Theatre on the Sunday, which has already sold out.
- The event will continue to support the Fishermen's Mission as the lead charity. Over £65K has been raised by the event over the years.
- Arrangements for access through the event for lifeboat crews have been discussed with the Coxswain and some alternative arrangements made.
- The Event Controller will be a contractor this year.
- More security personnel will be on site.
- T Day noted that it is also Weymouth Dinghy Regatta that weekend but there should be no conflicts.
- Concerns were raised about the possibility of travellers impacting on the event.
- Concerns were raised about the number and quality of public toilets. This is a key area that requires a good standard to avoid unnecessary feedback or bad impressions of Weymouth. The possibility of positioning some porta-loos in front of the damaged church in Maiden Street was suggested. M Ryan agreed to talk with the organisers to see if extra cleaning staff could be provided over the weekend for the public toilets.
- The Event Control telephone number during the event is 07377 559190.

- D Caddy had asked to ensure that the preparation on the Friday was covered by an appropriate road closure. There were concerns raised that people were constructing stands etc. whilst the road was still busy, which is dangerous. The comment was noted.

## **5. Weymouth Harbour update**

### **Peninsula Development**

A bid to the Coastal Communities Fund for £3.8M of funding for some of the work on the Peninsula has been approved with the money needing to be spent by the end of March 2021. The match funding required from Dorset Council will be discussed further now that Dorset Council has an established Committees structure and Members.

The next steps of the development are to complete preparations for demolishing some of the buildings, a full design for Stage 1 and planning permission for Stage 1. The next building to be demolished is the Terminal Building which is expected to be removed by mid-Summer. It is hoped the space will provide further parking spaces.

Although not part of the Peninsula development, the building on the Pleasure Pier has been demolished. There is further work to be completed on the woodwork of the structure including the piles and facings on the edge of the Pier. It is hoped that a café building of similar concept to the ones on the beach will be let on the Pier.

### **Harbour Revision Order (HRO)**

Authority was given by the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018 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.

The latest estimate for approval of the HRO is October 2019 due to the government being focused on other subjects.

If and when the HRO is approved, work will commence on defining the Directions.

Some other follow-on actions from the HRO work were reported on at the last Harbour Management Board meeting and there is further work to do on the financial impact of the defined HRO area.

### **Local Government Review**

The ownership of the harbour has transferred to the Unitary, Dorset Council, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 as part of the Local Government Review.

The future governance of the harbour will include a Harbours Committee as the Duty Holder, which will also consider Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours' issues along with Weymouth Harbour. The Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group will continue in its current format but with a Councillor from Weymouth Town Council and a Councillor from the Harbours Committee filling the 2 Councillors' positions.

There is still considerable work to merge the various Councils and officers in to one organisation, which will include some changes to the officer structure.

The procedures and regulations that have been issued by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council will remain effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 until routinely replaced by those from Dorset Council.

A revised Operations Plan and new Business Plan will be proposed in the next few months once governance and other issues have settled.

The current Designated Person will be leaving the Council in the summer and a replacement is being considered.

## **FLAG**

FLAG Board meetings have been attended by Cllr C Huckle, the Harbour Master and Mr R Summerhayes, the fishermen's representative. A replacement will be identified for Cllr C Huckle from Dorset Council. The closing date for projects under the current scheme passed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. The Flag Board will remain and continue to meet to monitor projects that have been approved. The Board is considered a success for bringing together various sectors of the industry.

A successor Fisheries Fund scheme has been announced with further details available in due course but dependent on the Brexit decision.

## **Harbour Walls**

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

Knights Brown has been selected to implement the repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps). The contractor will start work on site from 30<sup>th</sup> September. Some preparatory works on services will be carried out before the 30<sup>th</sup> September but there will be minimal impact. It is hoped that the piling and major construction work will be finished by Christmas with the detailed finishing jobs being done in the New Year. The EA Permit, Marine Licence and Planning Permission for the works are in place.

Ferry Steps operators have been advised that the area will be available until 22<sup>nd</sup> September and then, after that, only subject to the works programme allowing. Those concerned will be kept informed as the plan evolves.

### **Walls Condition Survey**

A full condition survey, including underwater, of all the harbour walls has been conducted but the full report has not been received yet. This is 5 years after the last survey so that comparisons can be made to evaluate any deterioration.

## **Business Plan**

The programme to return some investment in to the infrastructure continues:

- Ground soil samples have been taken along the route of the proposed sewage pipe for connection of Westwey Road toilets to the mains. An assessment of the results is being undertaken to determine whether it is cost effective to continue with the works.
- The e-system for managing visiting vessels has been introduced and been very successful.
- It is still hoped to provide WiFi coverage in most areas of the harbour but there is a complication with Open-reach data capacity in the area. The project is hopefully being grant supported by DCC as part of a wider project to provide WiFi to the general public.
- Some refurbishment of the pontoons in the Outer Harbour was completed.
- Lighting for the Commercial Road pontoons is still being considered.

## **Maritime and Local Events**

A list of events for this year is available on the harbour website. The following are some of the harbour related ones for which support is encouraged:

25 – 26 May	Fayre in the Square
25 – 26 May	Quayside Music

25 – 26 May	IRC Sailing Regatta, Weymouth Sailing Club (WSC)
26 May	Weymouth Bay Fireworks
31 May – 2 June	Folk Festival
Weds June, July, August	Bustinskin Aquathon Series
7 – 9 June	Weymouth Harbour Stand, Poole Boat Show
23 June	Veterans and RNLi Parade
29 June	ASA Open Water Swim
6 – 7 July	OMRA Model Powerboat Racing
20 July	Weymouth Bay Swim
13 – 14 July	Seafood Festival
13 – 14 July	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta
28 July	RNLi 150 <sup>th</sup> Boat Parade
28 July – 3 August	Lifeboat Week
28 July	Weymouth Bay Fireworks
11 August	Weymouth Bay Fireworks
24 – 25 August	Quayside Music
25 August	Weymouth Bay Fireworks
1 September	Weymouth Classic Triathlon
8 – 9 September	Weymouth Yacht Regatta
9 – 12 September	European Boat and Line Class Fishing Championship
21 September	Squib South Coast Championships (WSC)
22 September	Ironman 70.3
7 – 11 October	Weymouth International Boat Angling Challenge
5 November	Guy Fawkes Celebration
25 December	Christmas Day Harbour Swim

### **Weymouth Sailing Club and Rowing Club**

The new Weymouth Sailing Club lease has been signed. The Cove Project to install pontoons is complete. The extra moorings on the outside of the current mooring in the vicinity of the Rowing Club have been laid.

A draft Rowing Club lease for renewal has been shared with the Club and is being discussed.

### **North Quay Facilities**

The facilities are currently still operating as a Unisex based on the former ladies using the fob system. The flooring is due to be replaced in both the male and ladies facilities soon and once that is complete the facilities will open again on a code for the summer. In the winter the facilities will revert again to the fob system.

### **Weymouth Water Safety Group**

Hannah Wiggins-Bett, the Community Drowning Prevention Coordinator of the Royal Lifesaving Society is holding a further meeting of the Weymouth Water Safety Group on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. A verbal de-brief will be given at the HCG meeting.

### **North Quay Development**

The site of the former North Quay Council Offices will be developed in conjunction with Magna Housing. There is no further information yet but some public consultations will be held. The concerns regarding access to the North Quay pontoons and parking have been raised.

### **Points from last meeting**

Nothing further to add.

## PMSC Items

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at about 1300 Fishing Vessel Stella Polaris (NL, UK22 of Urk) called the Harbour Office on VHF to request to enter harbour to do some shopping. They were advised on the Harbour Master's direction that they could not enter as it was very low springs and they risked grounding. They were advised to contact Portland Port/Marina and the Duty Berthing Officer heard part of a conversation with them but not it all. At about 1500 the vessel entered Weymouth without calling. They landed some crew members in the Commercial Area and another harbour user saw them scaling the security fence and disappearing in to town. As the vessel departed the harbour it ran aground on a falling tide at the bar at the harbour entrance. There was communication then between the vessel and the Berthing Officer (relayed to the Harbour Master). The Coastguard were informed but there was no pollution. At about 1800 the vessel lifted clear, returned to the closest point in the harbour as briefed to collect their crew and disappeared. The skipper was apologetic!

## Questions from HCG Members

Kathy Claydon has asked whether glass recycling can be provided on the pontoons.

## Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 19 to 30 Apr 19

### Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To end April 2019	
No Visitor Nights	310
% variance compared to 2018/19	Up 29%
% variance on 3 year average	Up 6%
No short stay (2018: 13)	21
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2018: 15)	28

### Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 263 of 414 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 29 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 82 of 105 at end of period.

### Dates for future meetings (Commercial Road)

- Thursday 5 Sep 19
- 30 Oct 19
- 15 Jan 20.

## 6. Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Issues

A Frost highlighted that there are too many vessels entering or transiting the harbour at high speeds, which create a significant wash. This is dangerous for small boats, particularly with crews under instructions, and could potentially cause an accident and/or damage to equipment. There was some discussion but it was re-iterated that the speed in the harbour should be as low as possible with minimal wake; there is no defined figure. All harbour users are requested to respect others by proceeding at slow speeds.

## 7. Items from members

At the recent Water Safety Group meeting, events during the summer when water safety messages could be passed were discussed. There was also discussion about other ways of

getting the safety information out to visitors and water users.

A Sargent raised that there were some access issues around Hope Square during Fayre in the Square. A No Entry sign had not been covered and some barriers were blocking access. The HM agreed to contact the organiser.

Kathy Claydon has asked whether glass recycling can be provided on the pontoons. Glass collection bins were never fitted because Dorset Waste Partnership said that the weight was too much for the crews to get them up the ramps. This has now been re-visited and it is looking hopeful that we will be able to provide glass recycling bins.

The use of the Waiting Pontoon was discussed; Weymouth Notice to Mariners 5/00 is the reference. In summary, the Waiting Pontoon is provided for vessels to take the next scheduled Bridge lift. Failure to do so will incur a berthing fee. If a vessel wants to leave early in the morning, they can come out on the last Bridge lift of the day before but must have left by the 0800 Bridge to avoid the need to pay berthing fees. Exceptional cases can be discussed with the Harbour Master.

T Studley asked whether there is an alternative parking arrangement if the Loop Car Park is full. Users are requested to park considerately to maximise the use of the space available. The HM would consult with Parking to discuss any alternative arrangements.

A Sargent informed the Group that Malcolm Wright would be retiring from his role with the RNLI at the end of July. He is thanked for his dedication to Weymouth Harbour.

**8. Any other future business**

PCSO D Brown informed the Group that the Police have the power to deal with anti-social behaviour on the water under Section 35. This power was used recently in Bournemouth against some jet-ski users. Posters and flyers on the subject were made available and will be displayed at the Harbour Office.

**9. Dates for future meetings**

- Thursday 5 Sep 19
- 30 Oct 19
- 15 Jan 20.

**Duration of meeting:** Times Not Specified

**Chairman**

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