

Bridport Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 28 October 2021 The Salt House 18:30

Present

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| Aubery Banfield (AB) | Commercial Fishermen Sub |
| Gavin Brooking (GB) | Non-Commercial Mooring Rep |
| Ken Buchan (KB) | Head of Environment & wellbeing |
| Mark Cornwell (MC) | Commercial Fishermen Rep |
| Ben Harvey (BH) | Assistant Harbour Master |
| Simon Miles (SM) | Consultative Group Chair |
| Jason Mathews (JM) | Gig Club |
| James Radcliffe (JR) | Harbour Master |
| Cllr Mark Roberts (MR) | Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair |
| Helen Sawyer (HS) | Harbour Traders Rep |
| Debbs Urch (DU) | Gig Club Sub |

| 1. Welcome & introductions - Confirmation of Representatives and their Substitutes. | Action |
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| SM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, individual introductions were given. | |
| 2. Apologies | |
| David Lohfink – Gig Club Rep Grant Butcher - West Bay Community Forum – No substitute able to attend Daryl Chambers – Town Council | |
| 3. Matters arising from minutes of the previous meeting | |
| <p>Action points.</p> <p>MC – Queried whether any consultation was done on the draft. KB - Needed to check consultation requirements for the Bridport and Lyme Regis applications and will report back to the group.</p> <p><u>Harbour Revision Orders for Bridport and Lyme Regis</u></p> <p>The HRO is underway and is hoped to be complete for the next financial year. This is now in the hands of the MMO, and they will do a statutory 42-day consultation. This should be coming up shortly, and we will inform group members when it starts.</p> <p><u>Harbours Strategy</u></p> <p>MR - All members of the consultative group were encouraged to make comment on the Harbours Strategy survey. This has been tweaked from previous comments and is out online now for consultation for 8 weeks, the deadline for comment is 5th December.</p> <p>The Dorset Harbours draft Strategy Dorset Harbours Strategy website and survey Direct link to the survey</p> <p>MR - It is extremely important to help guide what we will achieve over the next 10 years. The Harbours strategy is high level working towards setting a general direction on how the Harbour is run. The legislation for Lyme Regis harbour is particularly outdated dating back to the late 1500s. For Bridport it is more recent, but the Harbours Committee took the opportunity to update the legislation through a joint Bridport and Lyme Regis application which has also saved costs of around £17,500.</p> | |

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| <p>On a more logistical matter, GB questioned how the mooring holders that he represents on the group can get hold of him.</p> <p>BM – Will create a contact list of leisure mooring holders and circulated GBs contact details to them.</p> | |
| 4. Harbours Committee Chairs update | |
| <p>Cllr MR – As the Chair of the Harbours Committee, reports will be across all 3 Harbours Weymouth, Bridport, and Lyme Regis.</p> <p>Under the HRO it is hoped the Harbours will become self-sufficient and any income generated by the harbour estate defined in the HRO can be used, for example extra income from car parks.</p> <p>Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk management around Weymouth Harbour. There is a huge infrastructure programme, a 100-year scheme with a £140 million expenditure, some of which is match funded by Dorset Council. This is part to wider long-term grant funding from the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Lyme Regis Harbour Cobb development plan Phase 5 – It was confirmed the start date given of 23/24 is still on track.</p> <p>MR – We would welcome comments on the Dorset Council Harbours strategy which is currently out to consultation.</p> <p>– Link to be circulated and can be found in comments of the minutes of the previous meeting.</p> <p>An abandoned fishing vessel has sunk alongside the quay at Weymouth. All efforts to find a new owner for the vessel failed and while the harbour was awaiting permits for the vessels removal the hull failed and the vessel sank. Plans are in place for its removal and this should happen in the next few weeks.</p> | BM |
| 5. Harbour Masters update | |
| <p>HM update to be circulated with minutes</p> <p>Questions where raised from the report;</p> <p>Q – Does the Power boat racing bring in income? A - Yes, income is generated through event fees and car park charges. The surrounding local area also benefit as this event brings in people.</p> <p>Q – Does this event cause a nuisance? A – The event makes a busy day however no negative feedback has been received recently. It was mentioned that the event is run with great efficiency and is enjoyed by the locals.</p> <p>JR – Added that the model chase boats may return next year.</p> <p>AB – Noted that the Harbour commercial operations are at 100% however visiting commercial vessels are arriving. Concerns were raised over this re. overfishing, nets, and infrastructure. It was requested that communication be had with Harbour operators before making any changes.</p> <p>JR – Explained, we can't stop visiting commercial vessels coming to the Harbour, The Harbour legislation states that we have an open port duty. This is a requirement of all harbours.</p> | |

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| <p>The Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority SIFCA are responsible for managing the local fishery.</p> <p>MR is the Chair of the SIFCA and will bring this issue up.</p> <p>MR- Suggested looking at charges for their visits. JR – Responded, our fees are already high for their stay and landing.</p> <p>AB - Suggested charging per box landed rather than a set fee. JR – Responded, we rely on the fishermen to inform us of this and may be difficult to monitor. AB – Suggested giving a landing time slot. JR – Responded that this could interrupt local Harbour operators.</p> | <p>Cllr MR</p> |
| <p>6. User representatives reports</p> | |
| <p><u>Harbour Traders</u></p> <p>HS – Harbour Traders report to be circulated with minutes. HS – Added, the Harbour Traders are excited at the idea of a self-sufficient run entity and there are many views on what could be improved. KB – Commented, some issues raised within this report for example street furniture and lighting will be dealt with by highways and the Town Council. These will be shared amongst those other areas to make them aware of issues the traders are having.</p> <p><u>Commercial Fishermen</u></p> <p>MC – Not much to report from the commercial fishermen apart from some bickering and tension between some individuals. It was asked if there is anything the Harbour can do to monitor these behaviours. JR – Responded, this will be a police matter if it doesn't fall within the Harbour but advised to report anything even if it is deemed minor.</p> <p><u>Gig Rowing</u></p> <p>DU – Reported there has been some near misses on the slipway due to other users. One incident occurred where a trailer was unhitched and allowed to roll into the water endangering everyone around at the time who had to move swiftly out of the way. As a result, the club has updated their landing and launching procedure. BH – Responded, we do monitor the slipway area during busy times and this procedure is not permitted. Anyone spotted will be reminded of the correct procedure. JR – Added, perhaps we can provide a sign in the area to help prevent this and will promote more verbal communication by Harbour staff to anyone launching. If anyone witnesses these manoeuvres, please report to the office straight away so it can be dealt with immediately. In the meantime, I will think of ways to assist the Gig club whilst using the area.</p> <p>DU – Continued, throughout COVID we maintained 160 members to the club of all ages. Launch and recover can be an issue with some crews, because of this we would like to speak with JR about a potential mooring. We have 50 people on the waiting list.</p> | <p>KB</p> <p>JR BH</p> |

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| <p>A discussion was held around the use of life jackets, the club do not use them however do provide a safety boat. This is something to look at soon. Perhaps discuss with other clubs including Weymouth. This can be brought up in the next meeting.</p> | |
| <p><u>Non-Commercial Mooring Holders</u></p> | |
| <p>GB – Asked how many mooring holders he represents? JR – Answered, 137 GB – Continued, he had not heard from one person and is finding it difficult to reach out to them. JR - Due to GDPR their contact details cannot be shared but will circulate GB contact details again and report in the end of season letter.</p> | <p>BM JR</p> |
| <p>Feedback was given re the slipway area being slippery when launching. Q – Can the slipway be ribbed at the bottom end to prevent this? A – JR - This area is cleaned regularly. The use of Hydrochloride has been stopped and a new environmentally friendly mix is being used that doesn't seem to be working as well. I will keep looking for other options.</p> | <p>JR</p> |
| <p>Administration - It was suggested that instead of invoicing seasonally for facility use, could there be one invoice raised for everything and paid monthly.</p> | |
| <p>AB – Asked, can we be invoiced for prereferral things, day to day fees like overnights stays as he feels telephone reminders can be a nuisance. Also, the receipts received upon payment do not hold VAT information. JR – Responded, these are placed on the till and calls are made when fees are accumulating. JR – Explained that we only have one business support staff member that deals with most administrative aspects of the Harbour, extra invoicing would be too time consuming.</p> | |
| <p>A new software was being investigated that would assist with these points raised however it is pricey and will need further investigating. KB – Our digital team are currently working on the systems at Weymouth and we will be looking at transforming these systems across the harbours in the future which should make things much easier to manage for the harbour and for customers. This should also take care of the VAT receipt issue when it happens.</p> | <p>JR</p> |
| <p><u>Town Council</u></p> | |
| <p>DC – Provided a report from the Town Council to be circulated with minutes. JR – JR to discuss with Daryl chambers point 3 in the report.</p> | |
| <p><u>Commercial Passenger carrying vessels</u></p> | |
| <p>SM – Reported on behalf of the Commercial passenger carrying vessels, report to be circulated with minutes.</p> | |
| <p>Pontoon space issues where raised, JR will look at this for next season.</p> | <p>JR</p> |
| <p>GB – Asked if there was any chance to extend the pontoons, JR – Responded, there is too much swell on east pier to consider this, but we were going to replace and extend one of the pontoon fingers, but the amount purchased wasn't as we thought.</p> | |

We also considered clearing out the other side by timbers and the rocks to place pontoons there for commercial operators to run from, however this is only in discussion and will require significant funds to accomplish.

Dredging

JR – Responded, due to the weather conditions the contractor prefers to work in March, if done earlier we run the risk of down time due to poor weather conditions and this incurs costs when no work is being done.

There are issues with anglers casting lines across the inner harbour and harbour entrance

JR – Responded, this continues to be an issue and is reported regularly. We are monitoring this, and signs are in place for angler's acknowledgement.

Kayaks and privately owned paddleboards are also an issue with inexperienced users getting in the way of motorised vessels.

JR – Responded, this is a growing sport, similar issues have been raised in Lyme Regis and we are looking at options to help prevent this safety issue.

7. Q&A's

Q – Do new mooring holders get attention with regards to advice on how to moor correctly?

A – The Harbour staff will show mooring holders how to get on and off their moorings safely. Further assistance is available at a chargeable hourly rate.

Q – Have mooring lines changed, they are either not linked or have no pickup buoy?

A – No change, hours have been spent in the Harbour tying up however this seems to change by the time a mooring holder arrives. These are checked at the end of and beginning of every season.
Buoys get washed out during stormy weather.

Q – There isn't enough parking, is there a way of securing a parking space?

A – Parking is available, but this is first come first serve, early arrivals have better chance of getting a space.

Q – Is there Fresh water on the pontoon.

A – There is a tap at the top, hose is 40m long.

Q – Are there plans for placing pontoons in the inner harbour?

A – This has been discussed, true costs would have to be investigated however there would likely be a drop in the number of available spaces to moor compared to the current situation.

Q – The waiting list has reduced over the last few years, is there concern of filling the Harbour?

A – The waiting list has improved and is managed better, there is no concern.

Q – How many relinquishments where there last year?

A - between 18 and 20

Q – Can the dredging be used to replenish the beach?

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| <p>A – There are sediment movement surveys being done to understand the transport of sediment along the coast. This will feed into the beach management plan and will help determine if this is possible. Currently dredge material is pumped onto a small beach beyond West Beach.</p> <p>Q – Can the flower boats be put out to sponsorship? A – The Town Council provide the flowers and the Harbour provides the soil. We could ask the local traders for sponsorship.</p> <p>Q – Can the CCTV be extended around the harbour more? A – CCTV could be better, but this comes at a cost. This is a future project to be investigated. Discussions have been held around a system upgrade however we will need to apply for funding and seek other revenues for fund raising.</p> <p>Q – The dingy pull out area seems to be full of lines, are you aware? Who is responsible for the ropes? A – The mooring holder is responsible for their own ropes; we do supply these at the Harbour shop.</p> <p>Q – Can a discussion be had with the Town Council regarding parking, e.g. vans being left in the layby? A – JR will raise with Town Council and relevant departments.</p> <p>Q – Who controls the sluice gates? Are they left open? A – The Harbour open and close the gates according to the weather.</p> | JR |
| 8. Any other business | |
| <p>SM – Will present these minutes at the December Harbours Committee meeting.</p> <p>The next consultative Group meeting will be in April – date to be confirmed. Please provide group reports early when requested to circulate with the meeting agenda.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 20:10</p> | |