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WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND BOROUGH COUNCIL HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019

Present: A Clarke, K Claydon, T Day, A Higgins, Cllr C Page-Nash, J Pullin, T Studley and M Wright (RNLI Substitute)

Apologies: PCSO D Brown, D Caddy, Cllr P Kimber, A Sargent

Also present: Cllr I Bruce

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

Keith Howorth (Weymouth Harbour Master), Nick Thornley (Head of Economy, Leisure and Tourism)

52. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

A Sargent sent apologies and M Wright attended as his substitute.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

54. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 November 2018 were approved and members received the minutes of the Harbour Management Board meetings held on 5 December 2018.

55. HARBOUR UPDATE

Peninsular Development

The funding proposal for Stage 1 of the Peninsula development was considered and approved by Dorset Council Shadow Executive on 12th November 2018.

The concept design was considered for outline planning permission as application WP/18/00403/OUT on 28th November 2018. Permission was granted but with a number of conditions, which are being reviewed by the Project Team.

A bid to the Coastal Communities Fund for a significant value of funding for some of the work on the Peninsula was accepted at the 1st stage. Further information has now been provided for the second and final stage, the results of which should be announced by April 2019.

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.

Harbour Revision Order (HRO)

Authority was given by the Statutory Harbour Authority (Full Council) on 22nd 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 HRO has been submitted to the MMO who are reviewing it and drafting the decision notice. However, the MMO have received word from the DfT that because of Brexit they will not be laying any HROs before parliament before mid-April at the earliest. This means that the HRO could not come into force until at least the end of May (6 weeks after it is laid). This is beyond the MMO's control.

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

There are also some other follow-on actions from the HRO work, which are being considered and will be reported at the next Harbour Management Board, including:

- The financial impact of the legal status of the harbour in previous years.
- The financial impact of the post-HRO era.

Local Government Review

The ownership of the harbour will transfer to the Unitary, Dorset Council, as a part of the Local Government Review with effect from 1st April 2019. The future governance of the harbour is still being discussed including the status of this Group. Updates will be provided when available. The aim of the new Council is to be 'safe and legal' on the 1st April 2019, there will then be considerable work to merge the various Councils and officers in to one organisation. This will include some changes to the officer structure and elections of new Councillors in May 2019.

From a harbour perspective, the procedures and regulations that have been issued by Weymouth and Portland Borough Council will remain effective from 1st April 2019 until routinely replaced by those from Dorset Council.

A revised Operations Plan and new Business Plan will be proposed in the first months of the new management to reflect the changes in governance.

A venue for any future meetings may need to be identified.

FLAG

FLAG Board meetings continue to be attended by Cllr C Huckle, the Harbour Master and Mr R Summerhayes, the fishermen's representative.

Bids from across the region and community are regularly considered by the Board. The closing date for projects under the current scheme is 31st March 2019. It is intended that 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 the summer.

Harbour Walls

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

A contractor has been selected from the tender process to implement the repair solution to Wall D (Ferry Steps). The contractor will start on site from 1st September with the heavy work starting from the 1st October. 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.

Ferry Steps operators are advised that the area will be available until 22nd 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 in recent weeks. This is 5 years after the last survey so that comparisons can be made to evaluate any deterioration. The full report has not yet been received.

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. Based on the results, it is hoped to continue with the works.
- The e-system for managing visiting vessels is expected to be introduced in March.
- It is hoped to provide WiFi coverage in most areas of the harbour soon. 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 is taking place.
- Lighting for the Commercial Road pontoons is 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:

17 March	Weymouth Half Marathon
22 March	Weymouth RNLI 150 th Party - Pavilion
20 – 21 April	Quayside Music
4 – 5 May	Quayside Music
25 – 26 May	Fayre in the Square
25 – 26 May	Quayside Music
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
13 – 14 July	Seafood Festival
13 – 14 July	Weymouth Dinghy Regatta
20 July	Weymouth Bay Swim
21 July	Quayside Music
28 July	RNLI 150 th Boat Parade
28 July – 3 August	Lifeboat Week
24 – 25 August	Quayside Music
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.

Weymouth Sailing Club intend to complete their Cove Project to install pontoons starting on 18th March.

The new Weymouth Sailing Club lease permits some extra moorings on the outside of the current mooring in the vicinity of the Rowing Club. Notice to Mariners 03/19 refers.

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

Dorset Marine Police

Poole Harbour Watch organised a meeting with the Dorset Police Crime Commissioner (Martyn Underhill) and the Dorset Chief Constable (James Vaughan) regarding concerns about the Marine Police. About 200 attended. The guests gave a good, open and honest presentation, mainly from the Chief of Police, about the challenges the police face and where they had not delivered the service that the public expect. They explained

the complexity of modern crimes. Their piece about Marine Police was encouraging with more resources being allocated from 18th February. The audience came away thinking that the police are taking the maritime world seriously but the services will still be limited.

The Chief Constable stressed the importance of boat owners taking their own sensible security precautions including removing expensive items, locking items away, data-tag marking etc. He also emphasised that any incidents or suspicious activity should be reported to both the Police and local agencies including Harbour Offices. Without the reports the police cannot tackle crime.

North Quay Facilities

After a constant battle with vagrants entering the North Quay facilities, a new fob-activated lock will be fitted to the Unisex facility. The lock will operate on both Westwey Road and North Quay pontoons fobs. For commercial operators, a separate fob will be issued.

Weymouth Water Safety Group

Hannah Wiggins-Bett, the Community Drowning Prevention Coordinator of the Royal Lifesaving Society led the second meeting of the Weymouth Water Safety Group in January. Further ideas were discussed about how various water safety messages can be delivered, particularly to visitors.

Weymouth Magnetic Open Sea Range Marine Licence

The first operation of the Magnetic Open Sea Range from a portakabin located in the Commercial Area was successfully completed in January.

Weymouth Harbour Charges

The new Scale of Charges for Weymouth Harbour with effect from 1st April 2019 are available on the Harbour website. The changes were made after consideration of the Fisher Report, customer feedback and other factors.

Weymouth Harbour Renewals and Conditions of Berthing

The renewals process for Weymouth Harbour berth-holders commenced on 7th February 2019. All berth-holders are requested to complete the process fully and in a timely manner.

A revised version of the Conditions of Berthing has also been issued as part of the renewal process.

Points from last meeting

From previous meetings, there was an outstanding action for the Harbour Master to find the regulations on the marking of fishing gear and discuss the issue with Southern IFCA. This has now been overtaken by the RYA who are part of a multi-agency project, the Lobster Pots and Small Craft Safety

Working Group, to try to tackle the marking of fishing gear to keep it safe for all mariners. Any outcomes will be reported to the Group. Further information can be found at the following link:

https://www.rya.org.uk/newsevents/news/Pages/new-fishing-gear-working-group.aspx?utm_campaign=In+Brief+February+2019+-+Member&utm_source=emailCampaign&utm_content=&utm_medium=email

PMSC Items

No known issues to report or discuss.

Visiting Vessels and Inner Moorings Statistics from 1 Apr 18 to 31 Jan 19

Visiting Yacht Nights:

Visiting Yachts To End January 2019	
No Visitor Nights	4943
% variance compared to 2017/18	Down 2.8%
% variance on 3 year average	Down 1.7%
No short stay (2017: 111)	251
No FOC given on loyalty discount scheme (2017: 478)	384

Inner Harbour Moorings:

- % Berth Occupancy - Inner Harbour Marinas – 244 of 411 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Chain and Sinker Moorings – 29 of 29 at end of period
- % Berth Occupancy – Commercial Berths - 87 of 105 at end of period.

56. PMSC ISSUES

There were no further PMSC issues.

57. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

58. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a wide discussion triggered by the Marine Police update. Group Members were concerned about the safety and security of their vessels. There was support for further CCTV coverage and better lighting in different areas of the harbour. The importance of reporting crime was stressed and agreed with Group Members.

Malcolm Wright informed the Group that RNLI crews are increasingly dealing with incidents that could possibly fall under the remit of the Police.

The security of boats during events around the harbour, particularly the Quayside Festival, was raised as a concern. It was agreed that some positive steps had been taken in 2018 and it is hoped that these can be continued in 2019.

There was a short discussion about fishing quotas and the impact on the local trade.

59. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The dates for future meeting will be made available at the earliest opportunity.

Duration of meeting: Times Not Specified

Chairman
