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## HARBOURS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE 2021

A recording of the meeting can be accessed on the committee page by using the following link: [Harbours Committee](#)

**Present:** Cllrs Mark Roberts (Chairman), David Gray, Louie O'Leary, Mary Penfold, Sarah Williams

Independent Members:- William Ellwood and Lee Hardy

**Also present:**

Cllr Ray Bryan - Portfolio Holder for Environment, Travel and Harbours  
Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke - Lead Member for Environment, Travel and Harbours  
Andy Sargent - Chairman of Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group (HCG)  
Chris Turner-Chairman of Lyme Regis HCG  
Simon Miles - Chairman of Bridport HCG

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

Paul Ackrill (Service Manager (Finance)), Lara Altree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory), Claire Connolly (Financial and Admin Manager, Weymouth Harbour), Jamie Joyce (Weymouth Harbour Master), Jon Morgan (Development Manager), Matthew Penny (Team Leader - Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)), Karyn Punched (Corporate Director for Place Services), James Radcliffe (Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place) and Denise Hunt (Democratic Services Officer)

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rob Hughes and Ken Buchan, Head of Environment and Wellbeing.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Mark Roberts declared that he held a mooring at West Bay Harbour.

**3. Public Participation**

A public question was read out at the meeting. A copy of the question and response is outlined in the appendix to these minutes.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated that, at the Annual Meeting of Council on 4 May 2021, it was agreed that all council meetings that are not executive in nature, would

continue to be held virtually from 7 May 2021 until such time as social distancing requirements were removed. Whenever a decision was required, committee members would express a 'minded to' decision in respect of recommendations set out in officer reports, with decisions being taken under officer delegated authority in the light of 'minded to' decisions expressed by members in the virtual meetings. John Sellgren, the Executive Director of Place had joined the meeting to fulfil this role.

The Chairman also reported on the following points:-

- he had participated in a multi-agency event on Saturday 12 June concerning marine regulations in Weymouth Harbour that had been well supported;
- consideration of the draft Harbours Strategy prior to public consultation had been deferred to the Harbours Committee meeting on 29 September 2021 to allow additional time for preparatory work;
- a recruitment process for two new Independent Members would take place through the summer period due to a resignation and the end of term of office of two of the existing Independent Members.

**5. Harbour Consultative Group (HCG) Minutes**

The Chairman welcomed the newly appointed Chairmen of the Bridport and Lyme Regis HCGs to their first Harbours Committee meeting.

The Chairmen of the Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis HCGs presented the minutes of meetings of the HCGs held during May 2021.

**Noted**

**6. Harbour Master Updates**

The Harbour Masters presented their updates.

**Noted**

**7. Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Engineering Update**

The Lead Officer - FCERM presented an update report for the three Dorset Council Harbours.

**Noted**

**8. Budget Outturn Report**

The Committee considered a report on the final position for the harbour revenue budgets for Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours at the end of March 2021 and the final position of the Weymouth Harbour reserves for 2020-21.

Further to questions put by members, the committee was informed that:

- there was no minimum amount for reserves at the present time although this was currently being discussed internally; and
- that £71,200 from the local government income compensation scheme had been successfully gained as a result of submitting evidence of financial loss attributable to the Covid restrictions which represented the full amount requested by the Council.

**Noted**

**9. Budget Monitoring Report**

The Finance and Admin Manager and Harbour Masters presented the current budget monitoring position for the harbour revenue budgets for Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours at the end of May 2021 and the predicted position of the Harbour Reserves for 2021-22.

There was some debate around the funding associated with dredging in Weymouth Harbour, both maintenance dredging and the ability to secure funding to dredge to a deeper level to attract larger craft as concern was expressed that this was not clear in the report.

Officers advised that the capital bidding process had changed in light of the Harbour Revision Order and that a further update could be provided once the processes were in place.

**Resolved:** That a further update on funding for dredging in Weymouth Harbour is provided at the meeting on 29 September 2021.

**10. Review of the Weymouth Asset Management Plan and Impact on Future Finances**

The report was presented by the Finance and Admin Manager who explained the change in approach to the Asset Management Plan. This had resulted in revised budgeted costs funded from the operational budget and identified savings each year that provided an improved and more sustainable financial picture.

Although this review would maintain the existing assets, there remained significant pressure on the budget with a need to continue to look at ways of doing things differently in order to generate additional savings.

**Noted**

**11. Forward Plan**

The Committee noted its forward plan.

12. **Urgent items**

There were no urgent items.

13. **Renewal of Weymouth Gig Rowing Club Lease**

The Committee considered a report that sought approval for the renewal of a lease for the Weymouth Gig Rowing Club for a term of 25 years.

Appendix 2 of the report was exempt from publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A, Part 1 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

The committee was minded to approve and authorise the grant to the Weymouth Rowing Club C.I.O. of a lease for a period of 25 years from 25 March 2020 on the terms outlined in the report and appendices.

The Executive Director of Place stated that he had read the report and listened to the presentation and subsequent questions and agreed with the view of the committee.

**Decision:** That a lease for a period of 25 years from 25 March 2020 on the terms outlined in the report and appendices be approved.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 am - 12.02 pm

**Chairman**

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## Harbours Committee - 16 June 2021

### Public Participation

#### 1. Susan Boyd

##### Question

Last week, temporary road closures were put in place affecting Weymouth Town Bridge and Custom House Quay. These closures were sprung upon harbour users with virtually no notice. The public notices posted by Dorset Council Traffic Team on the Dorset Council roadworks and road closures webpage a few days in advance is simply not adequate when these road closures also potentially impact quayside operations and vessel movements. Ms Punchard, what measures have you put in place with your colleagues in Place Services to ensure that this situation does not arise again and the needs of harbour users are considered seriously. It is unacceptable to have these decisions thrust upon harbour users with zero dialogue beforehand.

##### Response

Regarding last week's temporary road closures on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June, one was related to the live outside screening of a football match at Custom House Quay, and the other related to the Weymouth Half Marathon. Whilst the road closure application for the football screening had been made some weeks beforehand, the application to the Safety Advisory Group (SAG) for consideration of the event was not made until late in May. This led to a delay in the road closure decision on this occasion. The second event being the Weymouth half marathon was also applied for in May.

Moving forward a protocol has been developed that will ensure that Weymouth Harbour staff are fully involved at the time of making an application for an event or road closure so they can advise on the implications of these events on Harbour commercial operations and Harbour customers. This will allow time to balance the requirements of stakeholders and provide the SAG with the relevant updated information to fully consider the impact of these events when planned to take place at the Harbour side.

Once agreed this information will be disseminated via the normal communication channels to harbour operators and users, including the Weymouth Harbour website and direct emailing to all Harbour customers affected by the road closures at the earliest opportunity.

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