

HARBOURS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2022

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, Rob Hughes (Vice-Chairman) and Mary Penfold

Independent Member:- Lee Hardy

Also present:

William Heaps – Designated Person

Cllr Nocturin Lacey-Clarke – Lead Member for Environment, Travel and Harbours

Philip Thicknesse and Richard Tinsley attended the meeting as observers. *Their appointments as Independent Members of the Committee to be confirmed by Full Council on 14 April 2022.*

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

Paul Ackrill (Service Manager (Finance)), Lara Altree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory), Ken Buchan (Head of Environment and Wellbeing), Claire Connolly (Financial and Admin Manager, Weymouth Harbour), Jamie Joyce (Weymouth Harbour Master), Matthew Penny (Lead Manager - Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)), Karyn Punchard (Corporate Director for Place Services), James Radcliffe (Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master), Denise Hunt (Democratic Services Officer).

38. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Louie O'Leary, Cllr Sarah Williams; Michael Hainge (Interim Lead – Place Services) and Andy Sargent, Chairman of the Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group.

39. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2021, 16 June 2021, 29 September 2021 and 8 December 2021 were confirmed and signed.

40. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Mark Roberts declared non-pecuniary interests as the holder of a mooring at West Bay Harbour, a member of the LGA Special Interest Group - Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and Chairman of Southern IFCA.

Cllr Mary Penfold declared non-pecuniary interests as the Chairman of SCOPAC (Standing Conference on problems associated with the Coastline) and as a member of the Special Coastal Interest Group.

41. Public Participation

There were no written statements or questions received.

42. Chairman's Report

The Chairman welcomed Richard Tinsley and Philip Thicknesse who had recently been successful in interviews for the role of Independent Members of the Committee. Their appointments would be formally ratified by Full Council on 14 April 2022, following which they would become members of the Harbours Committee.

The Chairman paid tribute to David Sales, a fisherman from West Bay who passed away on 6 March 2022, commending in particular his work with the Southern IFCA.

He also notified the Committee of the resignation of Independent Member Will Ellwood.

43. Harbour Consultative Group (HCG) Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes and statement on behalf of the Weymouth HCG in relation to the meeting held on 16 February 2022.

44. Dorset Council Harbours Strategy

The Committee considered a report on the Dorset Council Harbours Strategy that set out the strategic direction for the three harbours.

Further to presentation of the report, the Head of Environment and Wellbeing advised that some of the operational comments arising from the consultation had been forwarded to the harbour teams for further consideration.

There followed some discussion on the percentage of respondents who were Dorset residents and that there could have been a degree of ambiguity in how this information had been obtained in the questionnaire. Officers agreed to follow this up with the Dorset Coast Forum with a view to providing more detailed information on the exact number of Dorset residents who had responded to the questionnaire.

Proposed by Cllr Mary Penfold, seconded by Cllr David Gray.

Decision: That the Dorset Council Harbours Strategy be approved.

Reason for Decision

The draft Dorset Council Harbours Strategy sets out the strategic direction for our harbours. The Strategy has been widely consulted upon in its

development and through an eight-week public consultation on the draft strategy document. Responses to the public consultation were very supportive of the strategy objectives and proposed actions.

45. Harbour Master Updates

William Heaps, Designated Person, provided a brief overview of his role and confirmed that all 3 harbours complied with the Port Marine Safety Code. He planned to visit the 3 harbours in order to identify improvements and provide a report for consideration at the September committee meeting.

The Harbour Masters presented their updates.

The Weymouth Harbour Master reported that, further to the recent government sanctions, there were no vessels with a Russian connection in the Dorset Council harbours and that a list of the relevant criteria could be circulated on request.

Noted

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

The Lead Manager – FCERM presented an update report for the three Dorset Council harbours.

Noted

47. Harbours Budget Monitoring Report 2021-22

The Committee considered a report setting out the current budget monitoring position for the harbour operational budgets for Weymouth, Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours at the end of January 2022 and the predicted position of the Harbour Reserves for 2021/22.

Following presentation of the report, a typographical error was corrected in appendix 1 of the report to replace the headings 2022/23 with 2021/22 for the full year budget and forecast.

Members requested some background on predicted car parking income given the large increase in car parking expenditure required in future years as well as some insight into future repairs.

In response to a further question it was confirmed that no asset disposals were being considered at the current time and that car parks would continue to be managed by the car parks team with the net proceeds being transferred to the harbours budget. However, officers agreed that it would be useful to investigate the condition of the car parks to get a clearer idea of future repair expenses.

Following the report of the Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master, members asked whether there should be a contingency fund for the 3 harbours given the unpredictable nature of the price of fuel, supplies and pay.

Officers confirmed that any increases in the costs of supply would be passed on to the customer and that any overspend would be funded from the general reserve. However, it was considered worthwhile to do some assessment work to identify any financial trends.

Noted

48. Forward Plan

The Committee noted its forward plan.

Further items for consideration as a result of the debate included:-

- Future car parking income and expenditure
- Assessment of future increases of fuel, supply and pay

49. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

50. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.10 am

Chairman

.....