

## HARBOURS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024

**Present:** Cllrs Mark Roberts (Chairman), Rob Hughes (Vice-Chairman), Mary Penfold, Sarah Williams

**Independent Members Present:** Lee Hardy, Mark Saxby, Richard Tinsley and Philip Thicknesse

**Apologies:** Cllrs Dave Bolwell and Louie O'Leary

**Also present:** Cllr Ray Bryan

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

Lara Altree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory), Ken Buchan (Head of Environment and Wellbeing), Ed Carter (Weymouth Harbour Master), Claire Connolly (Harbour Office Manager), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Anna Eastgate (Corporate Director - Place Services), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), Matthew Penny (Service Manager - Flood & Coastal Erosion), James Radcliffe (Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master) and Kirstie Snow (Business Partner - External Affairs)

**41. Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22 November 2023 were confirmed and signed.

**42. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Roberts declared a non-pecuniary interest 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.

Richard Tinsley declared a non-pecuniary interest as he holds a mooring in Weymouth Harbour.

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

**43. Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

#### 44. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman delivered a verbal report to the committee, he welcomed Tim Day to the committee as the new Chair of Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group and thanked Andy Sargent for his work as Chair. He thanked Cllr Penfold for her contributions to the committee over the past few years. He congratulated Ed Carter on his new role as Harbours Manager and thanked Ken Buchan for his contributions to the committee.

The Chairman noted the success of the establishment of the Harbour Watch Scheme in Weymouth and looked forward to the launch of the scheme in Bridport and Lyme Regis in April.

#### 45. **Harbour Consultative Group Minutes**

The Bridport Consultative Group minutes for the meeting held on 29 January 2024 were presented by Gavin Brooking.

The Lyme Regis Consultative Group minutes for the meeting held on 01 February 2024 were presented by Nick Marks, the Consultative Group Chair.

The Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group minutes for the meeting held on 31 January 2024 were presented by Tim Day the Consultative Group Chair.

#### 46. **Harbour Master Updates**

The Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master reported the updates for the respective harbours. He noted that three members of staff had undertaken a Harbour Master training course and they were currently in the process of recruiting a new Assistant Harbour Master. Dredging had started in both Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours and was expected to be completed on time. In Bridport the Harbour Team were working to increase the capacity of the bins to address littering issues. It was explained that enforcement training would be rolled out to the Harbour Teams at Bridport and Lyme Regis, following the successful training in Weymouth.

The Harbours Manager presented the update for Weymouth Harbour. He presented the statistics for the year to date, noting that commercial berths had a nearly 100% occupancy rate. The harbour had fared well over the winter, due to its favourable geographical position and preventative maintenance that had taken place. The Harbours Manager reported on several incidents that had occurred since the last meeting of the committee. A week of pre-season training had been attended by all staff, and the two Assistant Harbour Masters had recently completed the Harbour Masters & PMSC course. The Harbour works that were ongoing, included the repair of Wall 4, the Quay Regeneration Project and the Town Bridge Maintenance works.

In response to questions from the committee, the Harbours Manager provided the following responses:

- An incident that occurred involving a person climbing the Pavilion Theatre building fell outside of the jurisdiction of the Harbour and therefore was not reported to the Harbour Team directly.
- Following a bathymetric survey of the harbour in December 2023, dredging was not required in Weymouth Harbour, as depths remained good in the navigable channels and berthing areas. The next annual survey was scheduled for later in the year.
- There was no testing of the water quality for the Christmas Day swim, however it was considered within the risk assessment, and it was advised that people don't swim in the sea after heavy rainfall.

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

The Service Manager for Flood and Coastal Erosion presented the engineering update to the committee. Inspections were scheduled to take place in the summer of 2024 and repairs would follow after. In Bridport work was being done to combine the repair works for Harbour Walls A and B to reduce overall construction costs. In Lyme Regis repairs had been carried out on the Cobb, following damage from Storm Ciaran in November 2023. In Weymouth Harbour, Harbour Walls F and G were in need of repairs and funding for this was coming from the Levelling-Up Fund, with any shortfall being made up by Dorset Council. Construction on Harbour Wall 4 had commenced.

#### 48. **Harbours Budget Monitoring Report 2023/24**

The Harbour Master presented the budget monitoring figures for Bridport and Lyme Regis. In Bridport the overall expenditure was expected to be £103,000 adverse, this was explained as being due to an overspend on parking management, staffing costs, travel budgets and a significant overspend on supplies and servicing, due to dredging taking place twice within the financial year. The expected movement to reserves was £62,000.

In Lyme Regis there was an overspend on staff costs and an increase on the transport budget, due to the maintenance of a JCB. Income was reported as £31,000 favourable and there was no movement to the reserve fund, but the predicted underspend of around £4000 would be returned to Dorset Council.

In response to a question from one member, the Harbour Master explained that the installation cost of the ANPR system, to control the slipway area in Lyme Regis was the cause of the high internal management fee.

The Harbour Office Manager presented the budget monitoring figures for Weymouth, who reported that the budget forecast for Weymouth remained healthy, with a predicted surplus of £97,000 to be added to the reserve fund. There had been an overspend in insurance and energy costs and the pay award had increased salary costs. There had been an underspend on business rates and marketing.

In response to a question from one member, the Harbours Manager assured the committee that a review would be conducted into the Regeneration Programme and any results would be brought back to the committee.

The committee noted the budget monitoring figures for 2023/24.

**49. Monitoring and Review of the Marine Safety Plan**

The Harbours Manager presented the review of the Marine Safety Plan, he noted that as requested by members, an independent audit had been added to the Marine Safety Plan. Work was ongoing in standardising the incident and accident reporting system in the three harbours and work had already been conducted in Weymouth to make it easier for members of the public to report incidents.

**50. Weymouth Harbour General Directions**

The Harbours Manager presented the report for the Weymouth Harbour General Directions, outlining the reason that the powers of General Direction were being brought into force.

Proposed by Cllr Penfold and seconded by Cllr Williams.

Decision: That the Harbours Advisory Committee recommend that the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel, and the Environment approve the Weymouth Harbour General Directions to be brought into force.

**51. Weymouth Harbour - Future Development and Open Port Duty**

The Harbours Manger presented the report to the committee, he noted that in order to support the implementation of the Harbours Business Plan, it would be beneficial to amend the Open Port Duty, by way of a Harbour Revision Order. It was explained that for the future development ambitions (outlined in the recently approved harbour business plan), to be met, and for the wider Peninsula to be developed, the Open Port Duty needs to be amended by way of a Harbour Revision Order.

Members felt positively that the users of the harbour were being consulted before general consultation and approved of progressing with a Harbour Revision Order to amend the Open Port Duty.

Proposed by Cllr Penfold and seconded by Lee Hardy.

Decision: That the Harbours Advisory Committee recommends that the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Travel, and the Environment gives authority for the Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group to be consulted on the proposal to apply for a Harbour Revision Order to restrict the Open Port Duty.

**52. Forward Plan**

The forward plan was presented by the Head of Environment and Wellbeing, he noted that in addition to the standing items, a report on the Weymouth Quay

Regeneration Project, the consultation on the Harbour Revision Order and an update on the Harbours Business Plan, would come to the next meeting.

53. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

54. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

**Duration of meeting:** 10.00 - 11.40 am

**Chairman**

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