

HARBOURS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2024

Present: Cllrs Rob Hughes (Chair), Sarah Williams (Vice-Chair), Mike Baker, Ray Bryan, Peter Dickenson and Sally Holland

Independent Members Present: Richard Tinsley

Apologies: Mark Saxby

Also present: Cllr Jon Andrews

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

Lara Atree (Senior Lawyer - Regulatory), Ken Buchan (Head of Environment and Wellbeing), Ed Carter (Weymouth Harbour Master), Claire Connolly (Harbour Office Manager), Kevin Evans (Senior Accountant (Place)), Joshua Kennedy (Democratic Services Officer), John Miles (Democratic Services Officer), Matthew Penny (Service Manager - Flood & Coastal Erosion) and James Radcliffe (Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master)

82. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Saxby.

83. **Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 September 2024 were confirmed and signed.

84. **Declarations of Interest**

Richard Tinsley declared that he held a berth at Weymouth Marina.

85. **Public Participation**

There were no public questions.

86. **Chairman's Report**

The Chair delivered a verbal report to the committee, he noted that he had attended the Lyme Regis and Bridport Harbour Consultative Group meetings for the first time, in his capacity as Chair of the Harbours Advisory Committee. He thanked the Harbour Masters for showing the committee around the harbours on a

recent site visit. He also explained that the adverts for the two vacant co-optee positions would go out in the near future and final wording of the roles was being finalised.

87. Harbour Consultative Group Minutes

The Bridport Harbour Consultative Group minutes for the meeting held on 14 October 2024 were presented by the Harbours Manager.

The Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group minutes for the meeting held on 17 October 2024 were presented by Nick Marks, the Consultative Group Chair.

The Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group minutes for the meeting held on 13 November were presented by Tim Day, the Consultative Group Chair.

The committee noted the minutes of the meetings of the Consultative Groups.

88. Harbour Master Updates

The Harbour Master delivered the updates for Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours. He provided a summary of the statistics for both harbours, including the mooring occupancy levels for private and commercial berths, the car parking revenue and season ticket sales. In Bridport Harbour there was a plan to introduce a disposal point for used flares, to encourage harbour users to dispose of them responsibly. He also reported an incident involving a JCB hitting a bollard on the Cobb in Lyme Regis, resulting in a new vehicle being ordered.

Members welcomed the news of the introduction of a flare disposal facility, given the lack of alternatives in the area. In response to a question from a member, the Harbour Master explained that the timbers bought from BCP Council were intended to be used to replace any rotten timbers in the harbours.

The Harbours Manager delivered the update for Weymouth Harbour. He provided a summary of the let analysis, statistics, recent events and incidents that had occurred since the last meeting. The Harbour Management System was being reviewed and possible options for streamlining the system were being explored. The scheduled works to the harbour were summarised and included various maintenance and repairs to buildings in the harbour.

In response to questions from members the Harbours Manager explained that it was unlikely that a new Harbour Management System would be in place by the start of the season, as they were still exploring the possible options. He also clarified an incident involving a vessel becoming tangled with a loose fishing net.

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

The Service Manager for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management delivered the engineering updates for Bridport, Lyme Regis and Weymouth harbours. He noted that inspections had been completed in Bridport and Lyme Regis and repairs were set to take place over the coming months. In Weymouth inspections had nearly been completed and were set to be completed shortly with repairs to

follow. A summary of the works set to take place across the harbours was provided.

The committee noted the FCERM update.

90. Harbours Budget Monitoring Report 2024-25

The Harbour Master presented the budget monitoring report for Bridport and Lyme Regis. He noted that in Bridport significant savings had been made due to there not being any dredging this financial year and a vacant mechanic position.

In Lyme Regis there was an overspend on seasonal hours and pay due to the pay award, as well as business rates. There were savings made on dredging and fuel costs. As Lyme Regis was still funded by Dorset Council there would be no transfer to the reserves and approximately £29,000 would be returned to Dorset Council.

The Harbour Master clarified that the mechanics post would be filled in the new year and not remain empty.

The Harbour Business Manager presented the budget monitoring report for Weymouth. It was noted that the budget was mostly on track, there had been some underspend on costs including utilities, however they had also had to cover staff leave. Funding for the regeneration project was set to come from the reserves.

The committee noted the budget monitoring figures for Bridport, Lyme Regis and Weymouth harbours.

91. Harbour Budget and Setting of Fees and Charges 2025-26

The Harbours Manager presented the budget and fees and charges for 2025/26. He explained that the fees and charges had been benchmarked against other similar sized harbours in the region and Dorset Council's recommendation of a 2.5% increase had also been considered. He also provided a summary of the budgetary position of the three harbours.

In response to a question from one member, the Harbours Manager recognised the large loss of parking income, as a result of facilitating the repairs to harbour walls f & g and stated that they were working to a worst case scenario in the forecast.

Proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Bryan.

Decision: That the Harbours Advisory Committee recommend that Cabinet ask Full Council to:

1. Approve fees and charges for 2025/26 for Bridport and Lyme Harbours
2. Approve fees and charges for 2025/26 for Weymouth Harbour
3. Approve the budget for 2025/26 for Bridport Harbour
4. Approve the budget for 2025/26 for Lyme Regis Harbour

5. Approve the budget for 2025/26 for Weymouth Harbour

92. **Weymouth Harbour Revision Order**

The Harbours Manager presented the report for the Weymouth Harbour Revision Order. It was explained that the HRO had been given approval by Cabinet in November and that a budget of £40,000 had been allocated from the reserves for this purpose.

The committee noted the report.

93. **Forward Plan**

The Head of Environment and Wellbeing presented the forward plan for the committee for March 2025. In addition to the standing items, it was explained that an update on the Harbour Management System would be brought forward, as well as an update on the removal of the Weymouth Pilotage Function.

94. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

95. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.23 am

Chairman

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