

**Bridport Harbour Users Meeting – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Virtual via Teams**  
**18:30 – 20:30**

Present		
David Andrewartha	(DA)	Mooring Holder
Aubrey Banfield	(AB)	Commercial Fisherman
Gillian & Brian	(G&B)	Mooring Holder
Gavin Brooking	(GB)	Mooring Holder
Ken Buchan	(KB)	Head of Environment & Well being
Mark Cornwall	(MC)	Commercial Fisherman
Ben Harvey	(BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
Clive Hopwood	(CH)	Mooring Holder
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Administrator for Lyme Regis and Bridport Harbours (Note Taker)
Simon Miles	(SM)	Commercial Charter Skipper
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Ben Renshaw	(BR)	Harbour Assistant/Mechanic
Cllr Mark Roberts	(MR)	Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair
Dave Tompkins	(DT)	Mooring Holder
Matt Toms	(MT)	Commercial Fisherman

1. Welcome and Introductions	Action
JR – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, individual introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Cllr Sarah Williams-	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
No questions were raised from the previous meeting minutes.	
JR - Updated, dredging discussions are still ongoing to produce a 3 year agreement for the annual outer Harbour dredging. The inner Harbour is planned to be done every 4-5 years.	
The boat lifter has arrived and with it, great success.	
4. Harbour Committee Chair Updates	
MR - Took over as Harbours Committee Chair in September 2020. Committee meet 4 times a year to oversee Marine safety, general Harbour management, development of the Harbour Strategy, budget monitoring and any other issues raised.	
With regard to the Strategy, Dorset Council Harbours Committee has appointed Dorset Coast Forum to gather feedback from different users groups about their requirements and from the local businesses and communities about how they use the Harbours and what they would like to see for their future.	
There was good engagement great contributions from users across the Harbours and now some members of the Harbours Committee have made up a working group to put a draft plan together for further consultation.	
Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Revision Order has been submitted to the MMO for approval. This will take some time, but as they are similar the recently approved Weymouth HRO, we expect it to take a shorter time for approval (Weymouth was around two years).	
The purpose is to clarify Harbour estate and Harbour limits and update the legislation governing the Harbours. Bridport and Lyme Regis are within a combined application which saved £17000.	

## 5. Harbour Masters report, updates

JR - Gave an overview of the Harbour Masters report provided at the last Harbour Committee meeting. This can be viewed at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

JR – Presented the budget summary, provided at the last Harbours committee. This can be viewed at [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](http://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

<https://moderngov.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=163>

Dredging – The environment agency paid previously all fees but have now withdrawn following the recent extensive coast defence works. £25000 from our dredging budget is placed into the reserve account to pay for the inner Harbour dredging.

Cllr MR – Asked if scouring affects the inner Harbour?

JR - East side builds up softer silt than left, scouring doesn't have the effect it used to so dredging needs to be done instead.

AB – Queried the annual rise in fees/costs, will these be reviewed once the pandemic is over?

JR – Explained that the Commercial increase of 10% will bring them back in line with the private sector, essentially Commercial receive a 50% discount in comparison to an annual fee to a seasonal fee.

SM – Asked if JR had considered the impact of COVID19 in the figures presented in the budget report. These were good considering.

JR – Explained the Harbour would have been busier, however figures are not down too much. More single launches took place when the restrictions were eased which made a difference.

Cllr MR – Comments, lots of praise was given to all Harbour staff within the feedback from the Harbour strategy workshops. Committee were pleased with the positive comments.

Parking charges for log stay, £8 daily fee was confirmed for locals and visiting anglers. Season tickets are available through car parking services, but unsure if these tickets could be purchased by visitors or residents only. There were concerns that increased parking fees would put people off coming to West Bay to go sea angling and that people may chose Weymouth instead.

## 6. Harbour Consultative Group - Terms of Reference/Future Role and Structure

KB – Talked through the terms of reference and future role and structure of the group, further information will be circulated in the next few weeks which includes the process of representative nominations. Nominations will be discussed in a meeting to be held pre-season. It is hoped to have the group up and running by April.

KB – Confirmed what groups are to be represented and asked if they currently exist or is there an alternative member from those listed in the Terms of Reference?

Cllr MR – Asked if there was a power craft organisation in West Bay.

JR – This would be covered by leisure representative.

Brian – Asked if the coastguards or RLNI would be represented.

<p>KB – Responded, they would be invited to the meeting as and when needed to discuss particular issues and to use their expertise.</p> <p>CH – Commented, West Bay is fairly distributed with power and sail vessels, can these be represented separately?</p> <p>JR – Their representative will represent both, this can be looked at in the future if necessary.</p> <p>Note – It is important that the representatives communicate with their networks/group members and report any issues raised back to the Harbour Master or Committee. It is important that the groups are representative of all Harbour users, but also that the group size is manageable.</p> <p>MR – Explained that the representative will have a substitute who can represent the second strand if there is two strands to the group.</p> <p>The Consultative Group will continue to meet twice per year, at the start of and the end of each season. At times however, there may be extra informal meetings for feedback regarding other projects.</p>	
<p>7. Q&amp;A's</p>	
<p>CH – Are there any other plans or news for next month or so?</p> <p>JR – Engineers are monitoring an area of the Harbour Wall due to cracks appearing, the west side of the Harbour between the toilets and the roundabout.</p> <p>Milo – Will there be an impact to Harbour users during the works to east basin?</p> <p>JR – Areas will be accessible during this time.</p> <p>MS – Expressed the pontoons at times can be congested, previously a volunteer managed this. Can this be looked into?</p> <p>JR – We are happy to receive interest from volunteers.</p> <p>DA – Can people work on their boats currently during lockdown as people are still able to use their boats for recreational/exercise purposes?</p> <p>JR - Police are monitoring the area and have turned people away as this is not deemed essential work.</p> <p>CH - Gave thanks to the Harbour team for their hard work and being helpful.</p>	
<p>8. Any other business</p>	
<p>Meeting concluded 19:40</p>	