

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG) Meeting 21 March 2023 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00	
Present	
Ken Buchan (KB)	Head of Environment & Wellbeing
Karen D Diggins (KD)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Peter Fosh (PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Sally Hollman (SH)	Sailing Club Rep
Cllr Brian Larcombe (BL)	Town Council Rep
Jo Law (JL)	Sea school Chair/Rep
Nick Marks (NM)	RNLI Rep & (Consultative Group Chair)
Becky McGowan (BM)	Admin Officer, Note Taker
Steve Postles (SP)	Vice Chair
James Radcliffe (JR)	Harbour Master
Will Reed (WR)	Harbour Traders Sub
Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)	Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair
Lee Roper (LR)	Power Boat Club Rep
Matt Styles (MS)	Commercial Fishermen Rep
Virgil Turner (VT)	Boatman/Charters Acting Sub
Philip Wright (PW)	Assistant Harbour Master
Tony Coulson (TC)	Gig Club Sub

1. Welcome & Introductions	Action
<p>NM – Introduced Harbour staff members and welcomed the new Assistant Harbour Master Philip Wright.</p> <p>NM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked everyone to confirm which group they represent within the group.</p> <p>Matt Styles is now Commercial Fisherman Rep, a Sub is to be voted.</p> <p>A sub is to be voted for Boatmen/Charters. In the absence of Boatman/Charters Rep (Nick Williams), Virgil Turner was acting as their spokesperson at this meeting</p>	
2. Apologies	
<p>Chris Turner – Sailing Club Sub</p> <p>Mark Green – Town Council Sub</p>	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
<p>JR – Will speak with Resort Cleaning within Dorset Council waste services to find out what areas they are responsible for and to negotiate assistance.</p> <p>The resort cleaners in Lyme cover the sandy part of the beach and along the sea front from the Cobb all the way to Church walk. They are responsible for emptying the bins and litter picking the area. They will also sweep areas when needed. They are not responsible for any of Lyme town councils' beaches or bins in the area.</p> <p>KDD - Will speak to Murray Saunders (her HCG sub and a keen foiler) to get the message out.</p> <p>The report back was that foil surfers seen swerving in and around the swim buoys are not local however they are known. They will be spoken to next time they are seen. A reminder will be sent via the WhatsApp group again as the season starts.</p> <p>There have been no recent reports from the swimmers.</p> <p>JR – Yes, vehicle access along with the use of pallets for fisherman and charges can be investigated. Will discuss with Town Council as necessary.</p> <p>No further information yet.</p> <p>Q - Can we see how many people use this site?</p> <p>A – We can ask the host for figures.</p> <p>The host of the website has set this up and provided login details to access this information.</p> <p>CJ - Can any decision be appealed?</p> <p>KB – No decision has been made yet, but unsure, will investigate it.</p>	JR

<p>This is still in discussion; KB has spoken with Mark Green Town council and Natural England and is waiting a response.</p> <p>SP - Monmouth beach, when does the lease end? JR – Unsure, will investigate it. The lease has expired.</p> <p>Depth gauge is missing. JR - To replace. Quotes are being sought currently.</p>	KB
4. Harbours Committee Chair Update	
<p>Under the change in governance and functions, Harbour Management becomes an executive function of Dorset Council, with the Portfolio Holder undertaking the responsibility of duty holder, and the existing Harbours Committee becoming an advisory committee making recommendations to the Executive. Whilst still benefiting from the advice and expertise provided by the Harbours Committee, this change will streamline and accelerate the decision-making process, and enable closer working and collaboration across other council services. It will remove harbours business from Full Council meetings where there is insufficient time to scrutinise and question recommendations. Instead, harbours business will be publicised in the Cabinet forward plan, ensuring visibility for both the Place and Resources Overview Committee and the Scrutiny Committee.</p> <p>Cracks on the inner Harbour side at West Bay, it is looking like it will be autumn before repair works begin.</p> <p>Phase 5 engineering works on the Cobb has been approved, Works are scheduled to start during the summer 2024. Dorset Coast Forum are waiting for more detailed plans to start engaging in public consultation.</p> <p>Ed Carter the new Weymouth Harbour Master has been in post for 6 weeks now, he has visited Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours and has settled in well.</p> <p>In the Harbours Committee meeting, a question was raised regarding open to public meetings. NM - asked for the group's opinions, It was discussed amongst the representatives and it was felt open public meetings should be available under exceptional circumstances, in the event something effects larger groups of the community, the majority have representatives and are able to raise anything through them to discuss at the meetings. The minutes from the meetings are made public on the Harbour websites and Dorset Council site and it was suggested a feedback facility be available. It was also suggested a Facebook page be available for feedback that feeds straight to the Harbours Committee, but questions were raised of who will moderate this? A suggestion was made to live stream the consultative group meetings to reach the broader audience however this may lead up to detail needing more of an explanation than necessary.</p>	
5. Harbour Master Update	
<p>JR – Presented the HM report.</p> <p>Everyone on the mooring waiting lists have received mooring offers, we have moorings available in the Harbour still, so we have placed advertisement on social media.</p> <p>Q - Defined harbour limits under the HRO A - You can view the Harbour limits plan online via The Lyme Regis and Bridport Harbour Revision Order - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>The general directions and legal side for example pilotage requirements, feedback is waiting a response from the MMO, this could take several months.</p>	
6. User Representative Reports	

<p>Sailing Club – Report received. We are still waiting for Natural England to inform us of the future ideas of what Lyme Regis will be, for example changes in leases, any news? JR – Natural England are meeting mid-April.</p> <p>OK's event may cause disruption, if there are any concerns, please contact us or speak with JR or NM who can advise and support. There are 110 entries currently and there are 6 international judges. MR – Suggested discussing with comms as this may be good to publicise.</p> <p>It was confirmed, Harbour users can use channel 14 when launching to make others aware to prevent collision.</p> <p>Boatman/Charters - Boatmen don't agree with PWC's being allowed to launch from the Harbour.</p> <p>It was asked if visiting vessels will be allowed winter moorings? JR – Responded no, we are too full.</p> <p>Commercial Fishermen - It was discussed in the fisherman's association meeting, vessels mooring against the wall are advised to use their moorings, this will allow more space for unloading.</p> <p>It was asked to confirm if tying in front of the crane down be allowed in the summer? JR - This is being discussed currently. VT – Suggested using barriers around the crane.</p> <p>There is an ongoing concern regarding dogs on the cobb where fisherman unload. KB – Informed there is a consultation starting soon for public space protection order for dogs, this may be an opportunity to mention the Cobb. MR – Will speak with legal services regarding banning dogs along the Cobb.</p> <p>Lyme Bay conservancy meetings are held 3 times per year. VT – Commented, there are lots of questions being asked at these meetings, could these be deflected to the proper channels.</p> <p>Compliments were given to JR and Harbour staff for keeping the Cobb clear.</p> <p>MS – Asked, does the amount of net need to be stored as there is only one vessel trawling now? JR – Owners of nets are supposed to be looking at this and reducing where possible.</p> <p>SP – Raised a concern regarding the increase on parking fees and the conditions that come with permits and is waiting for a response from property services. JR – Responded, they are extremely busy currently but are getting round to responding, we will however follow up. VT –Feels the increase is too large of a jump, however, understands they are in line with the overall fees across Dorset Council. KB – Added that we are still waiting to determine the position of the car parks currently dealt with by property services, SH – feels a meeting should be held with JR, Commercial users, and Traders. This was agreed and a meeting is to be confirmed.</p> <p>Harbour Traders – The aquarium has hired a new staff member.</p> <p>Boat Building Academy are holding an Open Day on 15th April. Other clubs can apply to set up a stand at the event as the RNLI did last year.</p> <p>7th June is our next boat launch, launching 6 boats. More courses are available including a 2-week wooden paddleboard making course</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>JR</p>
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and IRMS course.

We also offer taster days for 6th formers free.

Gig club – Masters Regatta and Lyme Regatta dates are 21st April and 15th August.

Support was offered to the Sailing Club for the OK's event.

A new gig build at BBA will be starting in June ready for end of April following year.

Town Council – The Council has received a request to designate the Back Beach as a recognised bathing beach. Concerns were raised about swimmers safety, the lack of any lifeguard facility and visibility from the main seafront sandy beach, of the whole of the Back Beach and foot of cliffs towards Charmouth, where most incidents occur, and the trend towards increased paddle boards going east towards Broad Ledge.

JR - Confirmed the harbour jurisdiction in the area is limited from Cobb Gate groyne to the stone breakwater at Church Cliff beach.

The Council supported the new store planning application and its build.

It was asked if Dorset Council would maintain its commitment to their toilet facilities and look at the Cobb toilets (adjacent to the Cobb Arms) because of their location, limited capacity, and lack of disability access, as the busiest used in the summer months.

Concerns were raised regarding paddle boarders going off east with the tide, these need to be managed.

JR – Responded, the harbour jurisdiction is from the end of the rock groin to church Cliff.

There is a keen interest in the new store and is in support of the build.

It was asked if there needs to be more public toilets especially during the summer. The Cobb toilets are always busy.

KB – Encouraged contact with property services, Mark Foxwell to discuss any issues. mark.foxwell@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Sea School – Report received.

Town Council commented, a grant was provided to the sea school, they are happy to support the growth of youngsters.

The club can see up to 70 children per day, over 6-week period the club can see up to 280 to 330 children.

Non-Boating Water Activities – Report received.

There is now up to 1000 members of blue tits.

Safety information is being fed along to everyone from social media.

Feature on sewage,

JR – Asked what the result were from dredging testing,

KD – The result was good.

Non-Commercial Moorings – Asked if there are a scale of car park charges yet?

JR – Responded £11 per day, fees are available on the Harbour website.

A query was raised regarding residency parking particularly mooring holders and the use of Holmbush car park. Parking services are not responding to emails.

MR – Will raise this with the relevant channel to push for a response.

<p>Can there be a marked clearway as slip is cluttered at times, for tenders? LR – Added there is an issue with trolleys being left for the tide to cover them. JR – Will monitor this and investigate the marked clearway.</p> <p>RNLI – Report received.</p> <p>Power Boat Club – The club has had some refurbishment works done which put a delay on producing a proposal for the use of PWC's.</p> <p>LR - Appreciated some constructive comments/feedback however feels some negative feedback is outdated prejudice. For example, PWC's are noisy.</p> <p>NM - Said he had received correspondence from Lyme Regis Town Council, Lyme Regis Sailing Club, Lyme Regis Sea School, Lyme Regis Gig Club, and the Non-Powered Water User Group on the subject of PWCs. All had expressed concerns about the operation of PWCs at Lyme Regis. These concerns covered safety, congestion, noise, environmental issues, and the day-to-day management of PWC activity.</p> <p>A discussion was held amongst the group and similar concerns were raised about management and safety in an already congested area. Also, how the licence restrictions would be managed out of normal working hours.</p> <p>It was mentioned the legislation and bylaws do not include PWC's and the difficulty around changing this, referring to Weymouth Harbours discussion lead by David Brown in the October meeting. However, PWCs are now legally classed as vessels such that the MCA was now able to prosecute dangerous driving under the same legislation as any other vessel.</p> <p>NM – Encouraged an indicative vote from harbour users to show those in favour of allowing PWCs to launch from the harbour and those against. 2 votes received in favour. 8 votes received against.</p> <p>KB – Advised LR to send the proposal to JR to bring to Harbours Advisory Committee, this will then be looked at by the members and passed onto the portfolio holders for approval, if this was the recommendation. Members of the public and the views of the Consultative Group can be made at the Committee meeting through the normal democratic committee process. It was encouraged that all members provide feedback to JR with constructive feedback to go with the proposal to committee.</p> <p>LR - Would like input from JR and NM with regards to safety to add and improve his proposal. Both agreed to help.</p>	<p>LR</p>
<p>7. Q&As</p>	
<p>Q - Dredging and silting, sea defencing new break water, if it was shorter would it encourage less sand build up? A - We want to retain the sand, as its first part of sea defence.</p> <p>Q - Can there be any structural changes made as a means of employing natural tidal water movement and scouring that might reduce the frequency of dredging, – that's now become annual.</p> <p>A – Will need to ask the engineer.</p> <p>Q – Pontoons had larger boats on there last year, Is there a max size and tonnage? A – 10m is the maximum size.</p> <p>Q- Have there been any concern within the general harbours budget?</p>	<p>JR</p>

<p>A – No concerns</p> <p>Q – What is the budgetary assumption of the new store?</p> <p>A – We have £176000 in reserves.</p> <p>The works have been delayed due to the pole that needs to be moved, we are waiting for a date for this before we can begin arrangements with builders.</p> <p>Construction time is estimated 2-4 months.</p> <p>The Town Council store we used was handed back at the end of February.</p>	
<p>8. Any Other Business</p>	
<p>SP – Vice chair of the consultative group does not represent or substitute for a group, to remain as vice chair SP will put himself forward to substitute for the fisherman, this be voted on in the fisherman's association meetings.</p> <p>David Brown reported that the Sailing club access gates are being left open.</p> <p>JR – Responded, the code will be changed and given to the Sailing club to reduce the number of people having access to the code.</p> <p>JR – Requested, events that are being mentioned, can we be made aware and informed of changes to participation from original estimate.</p> <p>SP - A new community interest company, Lyme Bay Fisherman's CIC, has recently been formed, supported by funding through the UK Fisheries and Seafood Scheme from Marine Management Organisation. The MMO supports this development and would like to hold meetings in Lyme Regis.</p> <p>The next meeting provisional date 5th October 2023</p> <p>Meeting concluded 21:00</p>	