

HARBOURS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023

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

Independent Members: Lee Hardy, Richard Tinsley and Philip Thicknesse

Apologies: Cllrs Louie O'Leary

Also present remotely: Cllr Belinda Bawden

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), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Anna Eastgate (Corporate Director - Place Services), Kevin Evans (Senior Accountant (Place)), Joshua Kennedy (Apprentice Democratic Services Officer), Matthew Penny (Service Manager - Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM)) and James Radcliffe (Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbour Master)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 March 2023 were confirmed and signed.

2. Declarations of Interest

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.

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.

3. Public Participation

There were no public questions or statements.

4. Chairman's Report

The committee received a verbal report from the Chairman, who noted the successful launch of the Weymouth Harbour Watch Scheme and the visit of El Galeon, a replica Spanish Armada ship, to Weymouth Harbour. He was also reassured by the results from the testing of sediment from dredging, which posed no risks to harbour users.

5. Harbour Consultative Group Minutes

The minutes of the Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group meeting held on 27 March, were presented by Simon Miles the Chairman of the group.

The minutes of the Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group meeting held on 17 May, were presented by Dave Caddy the Vice-Chair of the group.

The committee noted the minutes of the Bridport, Lyme Regis and Weymouth Harbour Consultative Group meetings.

6. Harbour Master Updates

The Bridport Harbour Master delivered the updates for Lyme Regis and West Bay harbours. The Harbour Master provided the statistics for the Harbours and noted that season ticket sales were down due to the weather, which also impacted income from the shops. The Harbour Master also welcomed new staff to the Lyme Regis Harbour team and made the committee aware of the current vacancies at Lyme Regis. The committee were informed of the current works being undertaken including the substation and ANPR camera to be installed in the carpark, to reduce staffing costs. The high wall in Lyme Regis had been closed off to allow for monitoring and the Bridport Quay had been reopened to the public and was also being monitored.

In response to questions from members, the Harbour Master updated the committee that the report from the designated person following the audit was due soon and despite the loss of an engineer position the team had been able to fill those duties with the staff available.

Cllr Bawden delivered a statement to the committee, in which she thanked the Harbours team at Dorset Council for carrying out the testing on the dredged sediment at Lyme Regis and for their communication with residents during the process.

The Weymouth Harbour Master delivered the updates for Weymouth Harbour. He provided the up-to-date statistics and also informed the committee of an oil-spill response training exercise that had been undertaken by the Harbour staff. The Harbour Master also noted two incidents that had occurred, involving waste oil being disposed of in a bin and a diesel spillage. These incidents were discussed with the Consultative Group. The committee were informed of works at Weymouth, including the installation of a shed for 24-hour fishing storage, the completion of pontoon repairs and the replacement of railings on the pier.

In response to a question from a member the Harbour Master informed the committee that there are plans to provide more detailed reports including statistical

analysis around incidents in the future. The Corporate Director for Place also commented that following the recent oil spill incident in Poole Harbour, all information was being shared across organisations and training exercises were taking place to ensure staff were prepared going forward.

The committee noted the updates from the Harbour Masters.

7. Harbours Year End Budget Report 2022/23

The Bridport Harbour Master presented the Year End Budget report for Bridport and Lyme Regis Harbours. The Harbour Master noted that there was overspend relating to transport and services due there being two lots of dredging in June and March.

The Harbour Office Manager delivered the report for the Year End Budget and Budget Monitoring Report for Weymouth Harbour, who noted that there was increased income from filming taking place in the harbour and from commercial vessels. However, there were increased staffing costs due to the pay award and increased costs related to insurance and maintenance. The Harbour Office Manager informed the committee that the year-end balance was a stable and improving picture.

The Harbours Year End Budget reports were noted.

8. Harbours Budget Monitoring Report 2023-24

The Bridport Harbour Master delivered the Budget Monitoring report for Bridport and Lyme Regis, who noted that no variances were expected in the budget for either Bridport or Lyme Regis.

The budget monitoring reports were noted.

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

The Service Manager for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management delivered an update on the FCERM for Lyme Regis, West Bay and Weymouth harbours. Routine asset inspections were due to be undertaken in West Bay in the summer and were set to be completed in October. The Cobb wall in Lyme Regis had suffered storm damage and the walkway had been closed off to allow for repairs to be made. Inspections in Weymouth Harbour were set to be carried out in the summer.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Service Manager informed the committee that the Cobb is currently at a low risk of failure, despite it being an old structure.

The committee noted the FCERM report.

10. Consultation on General Directions

The Weymouth Harbour Master presented the report for the New General Directions for Weymouth Harbour. The Harbour Master informed the committee that the Port Marine Safety Code recommends that statutory Harbour Authorities seek powers of general direction.

Proposed by Cllr Penfold and seconded by Cllr Williams.

Decision: That the Harbours Advisory Committee recommend that the Portfolio Holder for Highway, Travel, and the Environment approve the Weymouth Harbour General Directions to go out to statutory consultation

11. Forward Plan

The forward plan was presented by the Head of Environment and Wellbeing, who noted that the Asset Management Plan had been pushed back to the September meeting and the Pilotage Review for Bridport would also be presented at the September meeting.

12. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items.

13. Exempt Business

There was no exempt business.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.17 am

Chairman

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