

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 29 April 2024 The Salt House 18:00

Present		
Aubery Banfield	(AB)	Commercial Fisherman Sub
Emma Bourne	(EB)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Gavin Brooking	(GB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Benjamin Harvey	(BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Admin Officer – Note Taker
Simon Miles	(SM)	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Rep
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Cllr Mark Roberts	(MR)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Andrew Taylor	(AT)	Community Forum Rep

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
SM – Welcomed everyone and round the room introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Mark Cornwell David Boyland	
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting	
<p>It was raised, some individuals of the group didn't receive the draft notes from the previous meeting and emphasised to circulate them in good time, within 1 week. BM – The notes are sent for comment to the Chair SM and Cllr MR prior to circulation to the group, depending on their commitment's delays can occur.</p> <p>AB – Queried the previous FOE request by DB regarding car parking fees. Information was unable to be provided as it is believed that it is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA, pertaining to prejudice to the prevention or detection of crime. The response didn't provide any information to statistically compare data. SM – Bridport Business Chamber also sent out FOE request and received a response, there is some information available regarding this. MR – Asked if the subject is specifically Harbour car parks or all DC car parks? AB – It is all car parks however West Bay car parks are in conjunction and are deemed expensive also. SM – Emphasised that West Bay locals are struggling due to this impact. MR – Car parking fees are set centrally within Dorset Council. It was advised the issue needs to be discussed with the Elected member Dave Bolwell, who is also part of the Harbour Committee. Public car parking fees aren't Harbours responsibility however it has been discussed in the recent Harbour Advisory Committee meeting and passed onto the Cabinet Member. AT – Stated, without statutory information there can be no policy. MR – New machines have been placed in April, at this point there is not enough information gathered to compare to previous data. EC – Added, this isn't the correct forum do discuss parking fees however we will feedback into the Harbours Advisory Committee and onto the Cabinet Member. We understand that there are some elements of data that is exempt, EC hasn't seen the FOE request and asked SM to send this file to him to investigate. EB – Asked, what is the remit of this committee? Harbour traders for example are here to discuss trade in the Harbour and are all directly impacted by parking fees. They are taking a hit because of parking fees, and this is an issue to discuss at this committee. AB – Added, any issues raised should be investigated. MR – Reiterated that things should be presented to the Cabinet Member. SM – Asked MR to stress this fact going forward. AT- Added that the new forming West Bay Community forum will involve a Cllr as they have now been mandated to attend. MR – Added he would be happy to attend if he received an invitation.</p> <p>EB – Harbour Watch launch has taken place.</p>	<p>SM – EC</p> <p>MR</p>

<p>SM - Thanks were given to EB for all her assistance, and to JR and the team. The launch went well, and we had great weather. JR - Will catch up with Amanda in near future. EB – Suggested inviting the Marine Police Jamie Thornton to future meetings to report updates. SM - Will send information and sticker to the WhatsApp group. EB – Would like banners personal to each harbour, stating you are entering a Harbour Watch area, along with other details for example the Harbour channel etc. Will seek a sponsor for funding banners. All agreed this would be a good idea.</p>	<p>BM SM</p>
4. Harbour's Advisory Committee Chair's Updates	
<p>Harbour watch launches, it was great to see all the other bodies that turned up, Border Force, Lifeboat, and marine Police. A big thank you to Nina Garcia for her performance on the day. Levelling up fund, Dorset Council have secured 19.5 million for Weymouth regeneration schemes.</p>	
5. Harbour Masters Update	
<p>JR – Gave an overview of the HM report. Launch stats are down, the weekend has been very quiet. Boat lifts look down however there are lifts still to be booked. Quayside parking and fisherman's permits have gone up. Shop is down compared to previous year and is a result of having no mechanic. Diving air has increased. Waiting list, we have offered to all, we are currently down on private and commercial take up, moorings are available, and we have been advertising. There are around 20 leisure moorings available, all sizes but mainly 5-6m. EC – Added Weymouth is very similar with vacancies for smaller vessels more prevalent. JR - We will be offering from the commercial mooring waiting list over the next week. AB – Reports used to include incomes and costs; can we have this reported? MR – These figures are available at Harbours Advisory Committee documents. AB – Are there any visiting commercial figures? JR – These figures are included in the overall figure and not separated; JR is happy to get these figures to report. If there are concerns with the visiting commercial vessels, these need to be reported to IFCA. Mechanic, SM – Asked, do they have one in Weymouth? EC – responded, no but we will look at this going forward, however market for jobs is difficult at this time. SM – Asked if this role could be split between all 3 harbours? EC - Will look at options going forward. AB – Suggested discussing a deal with Rob Perry for emergency responses for example. The tow of wall has been completed ahead of schedule, kiosks opened early, and now they are looking at Sept, Oct start for the next phase, There was a lot of movement after the initial works, but it has slowed down now.</p>	<p>BM JR JR – EC</p>
6. User Representative Reports	
<p>GB – Ropes on tenders by Bridport arms need to be checked, trawlers parking alongside and needs policing and contact with the users for correct use. JR – Responded, the ropes will be removed during the winter going forward. The weather began to improve 3rd week of April, we can begin moving commercial</p>	<p>JR – BH</p>

<p>vessels and we can look at the ropes that have been cut.</p> <p>GB- Contact with non-commercial users is still low. It was suggested again to perhaps have an opt in/out system on renewals.</p> <p>EC – We are looking at a new Harbour system that will allow us to manage mailings lists more effectively. Harbour admin can contact the users on GB behalf either by telephone or email.</p> <p>EB – There is a new swimmer’s action group recently formed who will work together to fight surface against sewage for designated bathing waters for east beach.</p> <p>EB – Asked what is happening about the demolition of the boat? There seems to be debris falling into the Harbor.</p> <p>JR – Responded, there isn’t anything washed into the Harbour, any bits are metal, however it will be gone on Wednesday.</p> <p>EB – Asked for a follow up regarding confusing dog signs.</p> <p>JR - Will follow up with Daryl Chambers.</p> <p>EB – Asked about the vessels with 28-day notices.</p> <p>JR – They are both under legal retention orders, we can’t do anything with them at the moment.</p> <p>EB - Beach wheelchairs gave thanks for moving their shipping container, can matting go down before 7th?</p> <p>BH – If the weather allows, we have had communication.</p> <p>AB – Commercial vessels when out in storage are now being charged. This wasn’t bought to the group for proposal and levied up with no communication. It’s the opinion LR users aren’t charged.</p> <p>EC – Some decisions are operational and do not require consultation, however it is noes that more communication on this matter would have been preferred.</p> <p>JR – LR users have always been charged, it was an oversight that WB users were not.</p> <p>AB – Had a discussion with JR regarding the fees however it needs to be communicated more efficiently.</p> <p>JR – Information is distributed in several ways, we share information via meetings, end of and start of season reports, emails and on our website which is updated regularly.</p> <p>GB – Asked if the notes of the meetings can be circulated to the group members.</p> <p>EC – We must abide by GDPR rules, operational emails can be shared but we need to be mindful of oversharing.</p> <p>AT – Added local parishes approve minutes and then display them on their notice boards, could we display our notes for example Cornish Bakery?</p> <p>GB – Asked, how do we remind users?</p> <p>BH – Suggested adding the links to the notes on social media, Facebook.</p> <p>EC – We will take comments back and discuss them amongst the team to look at better options for getting information out going forward.</p> <p>AT – Asked if the desired dredging works for the inner Harbour had been achieved?</p> <p>JR – The vessel had broken down so didn’t make it. We have been trailing the area ourselves and have managed to move the top layer of silt, we are looking at other options going forward.</p> <p>Dredging budget is £135000 for the outer Harbour for WB only, and all this budget is used.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>BH EC – JR</p>
<p>7. Representatives and Subtitutes</p>	
<p>3.8 - Any nominated member that misses two consecutive meetings without good reason (as determined by the group) shall be required to leave the group and the nominating body will be asked to nominate a new representative</p> <p>3.9 - Where an organisation sends a representative to fewer than 50% of meetings each year, the Consultation Group is entitled to review that organisation’s</p>	

<p>membership of the Group and may ask the organisation for an explanation before taking further action.</p> <p>JR – We have non-attending groups, Sea Angling Club. SM – Will speak with the Sea Angling Club to determine their intentions.</p> <p>AB will take place of MC Commercial Fisherman Rep. MC is standing down as Vice Chair. Commercial Fisherman Sub is to be sought.</p> <p>SM stands down as Chair but will continue his role as Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessel Rep. JR – Admin will send out forms of interest prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>DC is standing down for Town Council Rep, discussions are going ahead with WA to put forward a Cllr to represent.</p>	<p>SM</p>
<p>8. Q&As</p>	
<p>9. AOB</p>	
<p>GB – Would like to raise a concern regarding Harbour services. It is felt staff can come across intimidating as a group and have received comments from users that attitudes are rude at times. There is an understanding that staff are under pressure during this difficult time, the Harbour is behind on schedule for legitimate reasons e.g. the weather, however customer service should always be at the centre.</p> <p>EC – Responded, Dorset Council have a Code of Conduct that all staff should follow, and actions should be taken to any concern otherwise. Please raise these with JR or me to follow up.</p> <p>EB – Mentioned the telephone system, it is difficult to get hold of staff. JR – Responded, the system is shared on teams, for example, a call to JR doesn't get picked up, it diverts to BH and then to the office. EB – Perhaps a voicemail service should be added.</p> <p>MR – Gave thanks to the group, it has been a pleasure being part of the team and would like to continue however this depends on the election results.</p> <p>Meeting concluded 20:20</p>	