

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 14 October 2024 The Salt House 18:00

Present

Paula Bates	(PB)	Canoe Club Sub
Sarah Bennett	(SB)	Harbour Traders Rep
Jonathan Bourbon	(JB)	Town Council
Emma Bourne	(EB)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Gavin Brooking	(GB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Roger Guppy	(RG)	West Bay Sea Angling Club Rep
Jane Hallett	(JH)	Non-Boating Water Activities Sub
Banjamin Harvey	(BH)	Assistant harbour Master
Cllr Rob Hughes	(RH)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Jason Matthews	(JM)	Gig Club Sub
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Admin – Note Taker
Simon Miles	(SM)	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Rep
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Gareth Thomas	(GT)	Canoe Club Member
Jamie Thornton	(JT)	Marine Police
Andrew Taylor	(AT)	Community Forum Rep
Debbs Urch	(DU)	Gig Club Rep

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
JR – Welcomed everyone and round the room introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
David Boyland – Non-Commercial Mooring	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
4. Harbours Advisory Group Chair and Vice Chair	
No applications received for Chair or Vice Chair posts.	
EC – Expressed the importance of the role and is happy to assist anyone who wishes to put themselves forward with continued support in the role.	
The role and function of the Chairman;	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To uphold and promote the purpose of the terms of reference, and to interpret the terms of reference where necessary. - To preside over meetings of the group so that its business can be carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of harbour users and in the interest of the community. - To act as the representative of the Consultative Group at public events. - Ensure that the Consultative Group operates according to its agreed working practices and that it is inclusive, transparent and open - Work with supporting officers to ensure that the Consultative Group is achieving its aims, objectives and targets according to an agreed timetable. 	
There had been thought by some members of the group to apply however with their own reasons they chose not to.	
One substitute member put herself forward but unfortunately cannot apply.	
Only representatives can apply. The member was advised to discuss the possibility of swapping roles to representative so she could apply. EC to have a discussion with the current representative.	EC
EC – Asked for a show of hands from any member that may be interested in Chair or Vice	

<p>Chair of the group. No hands were raised.</p> <p>SM – Expressed that the role of Chair isn't a big task and that he has enjoyed it over the last 3 years, however he understands that there are many group members that are passionate and feels it would be best to have a new member in place to keep things fresh and positive.</p> <p>EC – Proposed nominations to be put forward, these will be brought back to the next meeting or prior and voted on.</p>	<p>EC – JR - BM</p>
<p>5. Representatives and Substitutes</p>	
<p>Positions of the representatives and substitutes confirmed.</p> <p>Still to confirm. (2-week deadline)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commercial Fisherman Substitute - Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Substitute - Harbour Traders Substitute 	<p>BM</p>
<p>6. Harbour Advisory Committee Chair's updates</p>	
<p>Cllr Rob Huges – It is a pleasure to meet the members of the group for the first time in person. I have been the vice Chair alongside Cllr Mark Roberts as Chair throughout his tenure, so I have some understanding from his passion and 22 years of Marine knowledge. Mark was a valued member and did put in a lot into this role.</p> <p>Rob has previous commercial boating experience and founded a Not-for-Profit Scuba Diving School on Portland in 2005.</p> <p>He represents the council at the Southern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority and at the Weymouth BID.</p> <p>I am looking forward to working with the group over the years ahead.</p> <p>The Weymouth Harbour team and I trialled an all-electric RHIB from The Hamble area earlier in the week.</p> <p>Around 28 knots top speed and fast charging proving to be environmentally friendly, we are hoping to have the opportunity of trialling one of these in the future within all three Harbours if possible.</p>	
<p>7. Marine Police update</p>	
<p>During 2024 Police have taken 93 marine related incident reports. 64 crimes, mainly theft, 25 reports involving public safety and 4 reports of ASB on the water.</p> <p>However, only one incident report originated in the Bridport and Lyme Regis area, which was an attempted break to a fishing boat at Lyme in June.</p> <p>The crimes have largely been confined to theft from Marinas and boatyards with a few thefts of outboard motors and jet skis. Thieves are particularly targeting tailored boats and jet skis along with pontoon-based jet skis and small tenders. The smaller jet skis that do not require keys to be started are also favourites to be stolen.</p> <p>In terms of police results, one male has been dealt with for speeding in Christchurch Harbour.</p> <p>To date one arrest has been made in relation to theft of Jet skis and outboards. In relation to this, investigations are still live, hence I am unable to give any specific details currently. I am hopeful a further arrest will be made soon.</p> <p>The bulk of ASB has been in relation to Jet skis coming into the swim zone at Sandbanks and Christchurch.</p> <p>JT – Asked, how do you feel about reporting, and do you feel there's a crime problem? SB – Added there had been more theft and ASB around the town recently, however it isn't Harbour related. DU – Supports the WhatsApp group, it's more of a live feed rather than an after event. EB – Added that we are very lucky that Marine crime in perspective is very low, however it can be a busy line due to being understaffed. It is felt we need to be shown we aren't wasting time when we attempt to report things. AT - Added, the Harbour holds only a small population and feels the active Harbour staff</p>	

<p>makes a great deterrent with their constant Harbour watching and movement.</p> <p>EB – Worked with Amanda Anderson to arrange the Harbour Watch launch. There were attempts to gain sponsorship for flags and signs, stickers were purchased and handed out. Marking activity days were in discussion to be planned but neither Amanda nor I have made that contact yet.</p> <p>EB – Asked, what is the feedback or stats from the Harbour watch?</p> <p>JT – Responded, little has been reported directly to me, perhaps Amanda could provide a more detailed update.</p> <p>JR – Invite Amanda to the next meeting</p> <p>Cllr RH – Reminded everyone that the more reports are put in, the higher the priority as it is an intelligence lead.</p> <p>SM – Asked if we have number of hits from the Harbour Watch QR codes?</p> <p>JR – We are unable to gather information from the QR codes directly, but we can provide hits from our website as the QR code directs users straight to our website.</p>	BM
<p>8. Harbour Masters update</p>	
<p>JR – Gave an overview of the HM report.</p> <p>Compliments were given to Harbour staff for the planters, they look great.</p> <p>6 x 1100 litre Bins are now being used and working well. None of which have been full on any occasion yet. (Bonus, seagulls can't get in)</p> <p>Once proven to the DC Commercial Waste team that they are beneficial, we could push for more next year and remove all the smaller bins that become over flowed.</p> <p>SB - Park Dean help funding with West Bay discovery centre, they are trying to push for the use of compostable food containers, they would appreciate bins on the pier.</p> <p>SM offered to collect them, Charminster office have them ready to be put on the pier.</p> <p>Flares, Bridport Harbour is currently seeking a licence to provide a drop off point and storage before collection for used flares. There is no location currently between Portsmouth and Plymouth and we are happy to provide this service. We are hoping to begin this Christmas. Charges would apply.</p> <p>Outturn 23/24 Income full year £57,366 (F) Expenditure full year £102,593 (A) Reserves, £127,121</p> <p>Budget Monitoring 24/25 Income forecast - £39,111 (A) Expenditure forecast - £103,072 (F) Transfer to Reserves forecast - £155,856</p> <p>More detailed information can be found Committee details - Harbours Advisory Committee - Dorset Council</p> <p>There will be no dredging until April 2025. RG – Asked, is there any plans to dredge the inner Harbour? JR – yes.</p>	
<p>9. Harbour wall update</p>	
<p>FCERM report</p> <p>2024 scheduled inspections are due from September to December this year. A new Asset Management system will be implemented for this year's inspections</p>	

Harbour Wall A Works

Harbour Wall 'A' is showing signs of settlement which is being monitored by the Coastal Risk Management Team. The necessary work has been assessed and preliminary cost estimates for budget planning purposes have been done. Works are already included within the council capital programme and a business case to access the funding has been submitted and funding approved.

The Coastal Risk Management project team are exploring options to combine the Wall A and Wall B works into a single construction project, to make use of any efficiencies that can be translated into savings.

Harbour Wall B Stabilisation & Repair

Emergency works have been completed successfully and the project is continuing to develop and construct the main phase (II) of works. FCERM are considering the best and most cost-effective design options for the repair and refurbishment work to the harbour wall.

There is an opportunity to commence further interim stabilisation works earlier than the main works, which is an option being explored. In the meantime, monitoring continues and there is an emergency plan being developed in case of further substantial movement of the wall. However, there is still a risk of wall failure, in which case Phase II construction would have to commence earlier.

The project team has met with the kiosk owners during Phase I, together with colleagues from the councils Property team, to discuss the works and its impacts. This will continue during Phase II. We will also engage and inform the wider public about the project, through the engagement element built into planning process.

Cllr RH – After the recent change, Harbour Advisory Committee Cllrs are coming to the Harbour to look around early next month.

10. User representatives reports

Non-Boating Water Activities

Is there an update on beach signage regarding dogs?

JR – Daryl Chambers was aiming to come and survey the area; he is now back from leave so we will continue to arrange this.

Is there an update on the black hut?

JR – We have an architect company coming in to do sketch drawings. This will include an external shower.

SB – Asked if there was a timescale?

JR – It has been placed in this year's financial plans for next year's developments.

Is there another location we could use for a changing room?

JR – If this can be financed by the swimming club, we can look at plans.

Cllr RH – Advised DC grab funding page maybe helpful, it provides information on grants coming up across the country.

[Grab funding - Dorset Council](#)

There is a boat currently backed up by the bike racks with unprotected props.

JR – This is being moved shortly.

Any update on The Wreck?

JR – It has been looked at, but it is too large to be moved. Measures have been taken to make it safer, we have had a 30ton machine down there to batter it down and flatten any bits sticking up that could cause injury.

Non-Commercial Moorings

Cleats?

DC –
JR

<p>BH – Unfortunately the cleats ordered were not suitable, we will order more for next year to be placed every 5m including rings.</p> <p>Any update on tender ropes? BH – They have been monitored and some will need to be replaced. The chain has sunk so we will need to wait for them to be taken up to replace the ropes.</p> <p>Even though dinghy racks have been pinned down, it is still hard to get dinghies in and out, can we have wider slots? JR – We will look at this.</p> <p>Are there any plans on customer service training from the last time it was mentioned? EC – This will be discussed with JR separately.</p> <p>Crabbers' nets/lines are getting caught up in boats and aren't disposed of correctly. They are also tampering with ropes and cleats; do we issue any notices regarding this? BH - We do net and collect and are currently active. We are waiting a response from a company to provide a trial for a drive around robot which collects things like this. SB – We could consider an approach to work with Harbour traders to sell more items of biodegradable material. EB – Suggested a £5 deposit refunded on return may help. Will chat with Litter free Dorset for suggestions.</p> <p>Canoe Club The public are using the designated area for the club even when the gates are closed. Can we have some signage? JR – Will raise this with Daryl Chambers on his survey</p> <p>Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels It has been quiet but ticking along nicely</p> <p>Can you confirm dates for dredging? JR – We are working on the MMO licence, the second dredge did well with minimum disruption. Hopefully in April and pre-Easter.</p> <p>The outer commercial pontoons are used for visitors which block access at times, this is impacting commercial operators. JR – We will look at it, but last year it wasn't used much at all.</p> <p>It is felt feedback on activities around the Harbour aren't notified efficiently for example sluice gates, can we suggest a Harbour users alert WhatsApp group? JR – No, we send out season reports, notice to mariners and updates are added to the harbour websites and social medias. We are looking into a new software currently and instant messaging will be a part of that. EC – A business plan has been created, GDPR will ensure we let people know of transfer of data.</p> <p>Gig Club Despite the weather, we had a successful regatta with people from all over the west country in attendance. We went off West beach due to the dredging. Thank you for opening up the trailer parking areas.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>EB</p> <p>JR</p> <p>JR</p>
<p>11. Q&A's</p>	
<p>AT – Would it be possible to look at widening the walkways outside of the Harbour, with the commercial fisherman loading ect it can get narrow, and they are cobbly and uneven. JR - Car parks manage that specific area but will look at it and discuss with it with them.</p>	
<p>12. Any other business</p>	
<p>SB – Concerns are ongoing regarding water sewage.</p> <p>Wessex Water sewage dumps into bathing water more than double in last year - Liberal Democrats</p>	

[Sewage pollution alerts - Surfers Against Sewage](#)

There have been Issues with spear gunning and netting.

BH – The environment agency is aware.

The hatch is working ok, the automatic gate just stopped but has been reported.

Next meeting to be held March 2025

Meeting concluded 20:00