

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG)  
Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00

**Present**

David Brown	(DB)	Non-Commercial moorings Rep
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Peter Fosh	(PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Sam Harding	(SHA)	Assistant Harbour Master
Sally Holman	(SH)	Sailing Club Rep
Cllr Rob Hughes	(RH)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Catherine Kinnersley	(CK)	Gig Club Sub
Jo Law	(JL)	Sea School Trust Rep
Nick Marks	(NM)	RNLI Rep – HCG Chair
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Admin – Note Taker
Peter Oconnell	(PO)	Non-Boating Water Activities Sub
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Lee Roper	(LR)	Power Boat Club Rep & (HCG Vice Chair)
Jamie Thornton	(JT)	Marine Police

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
NM – Welcomed Cllr Rob Hughes to the group.	
Round the room introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Will Reed – Harbour traders’ sub Max Gollop – Harbour traders’ rep John Trevena – Lyme Regis town Council Karen Durhan Diggins – Non-Boating Water Activities rep	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
The ongoing concern regarding dogs on the Cobb where fishermen unload. JR – Environmental Health did visit, they are now seeking further information, will follow up. JR – Environmental Health advised fisherman to deal with their catch immediately and prevent leaving it on the Cobb. NM – Added, it can’t be all down the fisherman and requested a follow up on what is meant by the Environmental Health’s advice. NM – Asked if there is any signage? JR – Responded, No  SH – Replied, on behalf of the group, we would like to thank Cllr MR for his time. NM was asked to write to MR to this effect. NM – An email was sent to Cllr MR  SP – Asked if the pontoon steps can be put back in. JR – This was actioned.  DB – Asked if we could formally let the Harbour users know and include out of town Harbour users about parking permits. BM – An email was circulated to all users and information added to new Harbour user’s welcome email.  Depth boards – Arrived but will be in for next season.  Sailing club and Gig club requested some text update. Actioned by BM	
4. Harbour Consultative Group Vice Chair application	
Application received from Lee Roper. The chairman took the vote by a show of hands. A unanimous vote sees LR as the new Vice Chair.	
5. Representatives and Substitutes	
Positions of the representatives and substitutes confirmed.	

<p>Still to confirm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Boatman/Charters Sub</li> <li>- Commercial Fisherman Sub</li> <li>- Non-Boating Water Activities Sub</li> <li>- RNLI Sub</li> </ul> <p>PO – Put forward his interest in joining the group as a sea Angling club representative.</p> <p>JR - The Consultative Groups may propose alternatives to the membership composition of the Group at any time, and this will be subject to approval by the Harbours Committee. Sea Angling is represented under the Non-Boating Water Activities, but we could look at adding another group.</p>	
<p><b>6. Marine Police Update</b></p>	
<p>During 2024 Police have taken 95 - 96 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>It was mentioned that there had been some theft during the previous Harbour season and a suspicious group had been spotted lingering around this season.</p> <p>SHA – The suspicious group had been reported to Border force and to the police separately when they came to the Harbour.</p> <p>JT – Emphasized the importance of reporting these incidents. We can target resources once reported.</p> <p>SH – Queried Harbour Watch alerts, it seems alerts aren't specifically Harbour related.</p> <p>DB – Feels that Dorset Alert, Harbour Watch and Neighbourhood Alert doesn't seem to be coordinated together.</p> <p>EC – Requested Amanda Anderson who is involved with Harbour Watch to be invited to the next meeting to give an update and answer any specific queries.</p> <p>DB – Added, he would like to volunteer to liaise with Amanda to arrange a security marking event.</p> <p>JR – Suggested holding an organised event in March as many mooring holders are around the Harbour working on their vessels during this time.</p> <p>NM – Suggested finding out the level of interest first.</p>	
<p><b>7. Harbours Advisory Group Committee Chair's Updates</b></p>	
<p>Cllr Rob Hughes – As well as now being the new chairman for the Harbours Advisory Committee I also represent Dorset Council at the Southern IFCA as their Vice Chair in Poole, I'm a qualified PADI Scuba Diving Instructor and have commercial marine knowledge as a skipper of dive boats in my past.</p> <p>I have been the vice Chair alongside Cllr Mark Roberts as Chair throughout his tenure.</p> <p>As Chair, I have now attended two Harbour Advisory Committee meetings.</p> <p>We are currently in the process of advertising for 2 new non-elected members to replace Lee Hardy and Phillip Thicknesse who both stood down. Positions are going to advert next week.</p> <p>The Weymouth Harbour team and I trialled the first electric RIB from the Hamble,</p>	

<p>from the same company Vita, who provided the electric RIB called Electra to 18-year-old skipper Harry Besley from Taunton who completed the Round Britain eRIB challenge. It had great speed and good handling, and we are thinking of trialling this at the Harbours. As the market expands, we will need to look at future prospects of installing electrical charging points.</p>	
<b>8. Harbour Master Update</b>	
<p>The stats for Lyme Regis are low, season tickets and overnight stays for the reason of poor weather. Single launches may seem higher, this reflects the season tickets being lower. I attended the Plymouth Harbour Masters meeting yesterday and from reports it shows the results are similar all round on private leisure data.</p> <p>NM – Asked if there has been any analysis on why mooring take up is low? EC – The result is across the board due to the economy, cost of living, more people going abroad after the staycation boom through Covid. NM – We had a long waiting list previously. JR – Waiting lists are managed better by removing people after 2 offers, this keeps it fresh and up to date.</p> <p>The Lyme splash cancelled an event along with the Gig club due to the weather.</p> <p><b>Outturn 23/24</b> Income full year £40,702 (F) Expenditure full year £23,111 (A) DC subsidised £76000</p> <p><b>Budget Monitoring 24/25</b> Income forecast - £83,000 (A) Expenditure forecast - £95,000 (F) due to no dredging Transfer to Reserves forecast - £155.856 DC Subsidies £32,000 Predicted return of subsidised funds £12,000 No reserves</p> <p>More detailed information can be found <a href="#">Committee details - Harbours Advisory Committee - Dorset Council</a></p> <p>SH – Asked, are the fees up due to car parking? JR – Yes, the parking areas we are now receiving income from, fees have been made to be in line with our own parking fees, 23,000 to 69000 is by increase of parking result. SH – Is it likely to raise that again? JR – We are looking at a 2.5 percent increase in fees however we are waiting confirmation.</p> <p>LR – Asked, what is the expectation of the subsidies given by DC, in terms of returning funds? JR – The Harbour is still funded by DC, but we are trying to reduce that and hopefully put money into our own reserves.</p> <p>EC – Explained that the harbour produces an annual budget forecast, which includes any predicted deficit. Dorset Council subsidise the Harbour to the value of that deficit. Should there be any of the subsidy amount unused (for example the deficit is smaller than predicted) then those monies are returned to Dorset Council. Any revenue made in profit beyond this is placed into a Harbour Reserve.</p>	
<b>9. Phase 5 update</b>	
<p>A civil engineering scheme to strengthen and stabilise The Cobb structure and deliver improvements to the utility services and surfaces. Currently, there is a funding shortfall of 3.5 million to deliver the scheme as described within the</p>	

approved outline business case (2022).

Engagement is ongoing with the public, stakeholders and commercial users, as well as design progress and licensing applications. Discussions with statutory consultees such as Historic England, Natural England and the Marine Management Organisation are underway.

The project team are currently progressing discussions with potential funders like the Environment Agency, Historic England and the Heritage Lottery with the intent to close the funding gap. Design analysis is progressing with an intent to value-engineer the scheme and reduce its cost. Construction is scheduled to commence Winter 2025.

Key Milestones:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Programme</b>
Stakeholder engagement	Ongoing
Design Development	Feb 2023 – Spring 2024
Permits and Licences determination	Spring 2023 – Autumn 2025
Proposed Construction start	Winter 2025

NM – Emphasised the ongoing and raising concern over the state of the Cobb, phase 5 works and the impact on the Harbour and town this will have.

SH – Feels the delays occurred when the unitary Council was formed. RH – Reminded everyone that the Council had only been together for 11 months before Covid lockdown.

JR – The new engineer involved has previously been involved in the Dawlish Railway Collapse he has a great level of understanding.

SH – Asked if there is an emergency plan in place? JR – Yes, the walls are being monitored regularly.

SH – Asked if there is anything the group can do to help push and support this, perhaps letters to the MP?

EC -Raising awareness never hurts.

#### 10.user rep reports

##### **Power Boat Club**

A slow but steady season. Nothing much to report

##### **Sailing Club**

Firefly National Championships will be held 16<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Augst 2025

Cleats on the pontoon?

JR – We are placing cleats every 5m and introducing rings that will sit 1m away.

Dredging, will it be the same method?

JR – We are currently working on a licence to the MMO, and we intend to use the same method by removing the ground chains.

CK – Will you seek an alternative provider due to the dissatisfaction of the last dredge?

JR - yes

##### **Non-Commercial Mooring Holders**

<p>Please ask staff to keep an eye out for CGR anchors and prop buckets.</p> <p>DB – There is some difficulty getting in and out because of vessel in the channel, tight space to navigate.</p> <p><b>RNLI</b> It's been a quiet season for the RNLI, Lifeguard's however have had their busiest year on record. NM – To send EC the lifeguards report.</p> <p>Any update on RNLI parking? JR - Met with Nigel Jones and agrees an alternative plan is to be sought for training purposes.</p> <p>There is a yellow buoy at bottom of RNLI slipway. JR – This is someone's mooring buoy; it will be taken out soon.</p> <p><b>Non-Boating Water Activities</b> Nothing to add to the report</p> <p>Is there an event calendar? JL – What's on in Lyme website JR – Harbour websites give some information on events at the Harbour</p> <p>NM – Do we know the hits on the Water Safety page on the Harbour website? JR – 41 through this summer NM – Feels this is a low number, how could we promote it more? Suggestions were made to use larger signs, encourage more use in retailers, place more signs around the Harbour, lifeguard hut and car park machines.</p>	<p>NM</p>
<p>11. Any other business</p>	
<p><b>Power Boat Club</b> LR – We intend to pursue the trial for PWC's. Advise from DC legal team is to wait until the HRO has gone through before we further propose the use of PWCs. Why? And how long do you think this will take? JR – The 2 applications above ours has now gone to parliament, we are number 3 and 4. EC – I had a meeting with Tommy Fox a Marine lawyer who confirmed that the PWC's are classed and recognised as vessels and under the Marine Law have a right to navigate. As an open port, the duty is applied to access points which does include the slipways. The HRO would consolidate and modernise existing local statutory harbour legislation in respect of Lyme Regis Harbour and confer further modernised powers on the Council considered conducive to the efficient and economical operation, maintenance, management and improvement of the harbours. In particular, the HRO would confer modern powers on the Council to give general directions to vessels using Lyme Regis. As this is a public interest, we do need to follow the process, and we can only act legally. Our legal services do not back the PBC taking the lead over PWC's as a member only use and feels this should sit with Harbours as the authority because usage would be open to everyone. There would be a public consultation in form of public notices in local papers, notice boards etc and a review of feedback will be had before any decisions are made.</p> <p>JL – If the decision is to allow PWC's and an incident occurred, can we retract the decision? EC – There would of course be an investigation and action against the individual, Relevant parties would be informed however I don't think 1 incident could allow an immediate reversal.</p> <p>DB – We seem to have more electric jet boards in and around the Harbour, EC – They are not recognised as a vessel, so they don't fall under the right to</p>	

navigate.

SH – We do monitor them as best we can and enforce rules, they are not allowed in the harbour and must stay outside of the swim line.

SH – Welcomed EC and Cllr RH

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November a meeting will be held at Lyme Regis for all Harbour Advisory Committee members to look at the Cobb wall and see the Monmouth beach adjustments so everyone can understand where we are.

SH – Asked how the timber sleepers will be used?

JR – The timber sleepers will be used with ropes run through, to mark the boundary line of the storage area.

Following meeting provisional dates.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025

Meeting concluded 19:45