

Present

Tim Day	TD	Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Ed Carter	EC	Weymouth Harbour Master
Cllr Rob Hughes	RH	Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Jamie Pullin	JP	Charter Boats Representative and Vice Chair
Andy Alcock	AA	Commercial Fishermen Representative
Alan Hale	AH	Boat Owners Inner Harbour Representative
Colin Thomas	CT	Boat Owners Inner Harbour Substitute
Will Holmes	WH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Callum Seggie	CS	Training, Education & Schools Representative
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch and Harbour Traders Representative
Simon Kershaw	SK	RNLI Representative
Paul Swain	SW	Boatfolk – Weymouth Marina Representative
Amanada Anderson	AA	Dorset Police Resilient Communities Coordinator
Andy Turtle	AT	Dorset Police Citizen Policing Manager
Dan Bell	DB	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Substitute
Sarah Johnston	SJ	Minute Taker

1. INTRODUCTIONS, APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

TD opened the meeting and members of the group introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Kate Wheller, Rob Gray and Adrian Best.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

TD asked if anyone had any points from the previous minutes. No objections raised; minutes deemed accepted.

4. HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

1.0 Harbour Use

EC delivered an update on Weymouth harbour.

Marina Occupancy & Renewals, peak occupancy in September 2025: 92.5%, slightly ahead of previous year with a steeper winter drop due to increase in 6-month short-term lets. Many renewals still pending; expecting numbers to improve. Strong demand continues for 12m+ berths (waiting list in place) but currently vacancies remain for ~10m vessels.

Revenue Summary, visiting leisure craft income was 3% down on last year with the Slipway & PWC revenue: 7–8% up, which is credited to strong summer weather. Bridge lifts slightly down; though number of vessels through the bridge up.

Winter Weather & Harbour Condition, the harbour infrastructure handled winter storms well with minimal issues. With the Stone Pier taking a lot of heavy waves; some resurfacing repairs are now required. Otherwise, routine winter maintenance ongoing (vessel haul-outs, pontoon cleaning).

The Christmas Day Swim in challenging weather saw the first swimmer group of strong swimmers with 6 needing kayak assistance. At that point the event cancelled immediately for safety. There will be a review planned on pre-event cancellation thresholds for future years.

Staffing Updates, an Assistant Harbour Master role has been filled by Liam Rowland (internal promotion) and recruitment will begin for a new berthing officer. Bev will be moving to full-time; seasonal moorings officer will be hired to cover Mon–Tues.

2.0 Incidents

Incidents Since Last Meeting - 13 have been recorded including; public sleeping on Harbour premises, intoxicated individuals boarding boats, roadworks barriers thrown in the Harbour, a temporary bridge lift failure. Discovery of hypodermic needle, two mooring line failures; minor vessel damage and speeding vessels: two cases progressing toward legal action under new General Directions (first potential prosecutions). No pollution spills; oil spill returns submitted to MCA.

Regarding Multi-Agency Work, we are developing a multi-agency emergency exercise for September, a MOU with Fire & Rescue for night-time marina access.

3.0 Operations

Harbour Revision Order (HRO) - HRO combining Weymouth, Bridport & Lyme Regis due to be enacted 20 February 2026. The main key change is to the Open Port Duty which is restricted to vessels under 24m. Anything above 24m entry becomes discretionary.

Port Marine Safety Code, a 3-yearly compliance review is now complete for all Dorset Harbours. The Compliance statement will be published with Advisory Committee papers.

4.0 Other Harbour Updates

Following the Jacoba Maria grounding in October, full bathymetry shows no significant change in Harbour entrance. The slow sedimentation only (centimetres per year). Although the seagrass growth is increasing near entrance and this may affect future dredging methodology. An historic depth comparison analysis is underway.

Large Vessel Berthing: a 50m motor yacht *Mosaic* visited in January, and we have received an enquiry from another large vessel for peak-season stay but this was declined due to loss of visitor capacity; group members requested reconsideration. **EC** agreed to review with his team.

5.0 Harbour Works

Cosens Quay: Investigations showed minor voids where light material had washed away; repaired and stable.

Stone Pier Railings: Full refurbishment approved; cost ~£90k, using asset maintenance budget. Complete replacement would have cost £200k+.

Concrete Seats: Deterioration due to rebar corrosion; engineers assessing repair options.

Sand Jetty: Above/below water structural surveys to be carried out by Ramboll. Wooden pilings to be replaced and we expect completion late May/early June.

Fuel Pontoon: Redesign of pipe routing using an "energy chain" after previous fuel spill. The Contractor is covering the costs, and the operational target is possibly before Easter. It will require staff to operate it as it is not self-service, due to HMRC restrictions.

6.0 Upcoming Events

- Dorset Artisan Market – 19 June, 17 July, 14 August.
- Seafood Festival – 4–5 July (expanded footprint).
- Ironman – 20 September.
- IQ Foil World Championships – 4–12 September; finals will finish inside Harbour.
- Waverley visits – 3–4, 9, and 13 September.
- National Fisherman's Remembrance Day – 10 May.
- Lifeboat Week – date TBC.

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

SK - RNLI

- 17 launches since last meeting (Nov–Jan).
- Mainly recreational incidents; quiet winter.
- Awaiting long-delayed boathouse refurbishment.

AA - Commercial Fishermen

- Quiet season due to weather; full report expected next meeting.

AH - Non-Commercial Boat Owners

- Facebook group growing; used for communication and raising issues.
- Fire incident narrowly avoided due to overheated batteries on a vessel left on constant charge.
- Harbour team to send safety messaging about battery checks & dehumidifier risks.

PS - Boatfolk / Premier Marinas

- Rebrand underway as **Premier** following acquisition.
- New network of 22 marinas.
- Sluice gate activity monitored; reed buildup causing issues.
- Flooding under Town Bridge raised as concern.

AA/AT - Dorset Police

- Crime levels locally low; some outboard thefts elsewhere in county.
- Noted organised crime using RIBs for drug and weapons transport along south coast.
- Public urged to call **999 for any crime in progress**.
- Security Afloat-style county-wide event proposed.

MH - Harbour Traders Association

- Mary intends to revive the Traders Association as an active group.
- Confirmed issues: ongoing flooding under Town Bridge; sand jetty survey welcomed.

JP - Charter Boats

- Weather severely impacting winter trade.
- Competitions scheduled:
 - **Weymouth Wideback** – 22 June.
 - Police competition in October.

TD - Clubs of Weymouth

- All racing marks removed for winter; only one lost.
- Hippo Boys (outer trots) to be repositioned before Easter.

WH - Weymouth Beach / Resort Leisure Users

- Beach levelling due next week.
- No replacement for pedalos during 2026 season.
- Discussion ongoing about rafts issue and swim zone buoys.

CS – Training, Education and Schools

- Concerns raised about buoys pushing too far toward Harbour entrance. **EC** confirmed they will return to original alignment by the old Merlin Tower location once wall works finished.

MH/AA Weymouth Harbour Watch / Dorset Police

- Security Marking Event is scheduled for 28 March across North Quay & Westway pontoons. Timing and location to be advertised. **SJ** to compile details.
- Commercial skippers requested alternative arrangements due to high-value equipment; police happy to board vessels directly. **SJ & AA** to arrange with **JP**
- **Cllr RH** – The next HAC is on 4th March. Following on from the full Council meeting where there will be no increase in car parking fees but 5 million has been given to Highways in light of the recent flooding and road deterioration. Council Tax is going up by 4.99% . Discussions were held regarding the flood plains and planning issues in Dorset with a motion being presented by

Cllr O'Leary regarding the Housing Associations selling off property in the local area. EC confirmed that Mooring Fees within the harbour are increasing by 3.4% tracking inflation, and this was also approved in the full Council meeting. Harbour budgets are ring fenced for the harbour only.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **AH** – Items raised by NQ & WW Rd pontoon berth-holders:
 - Can berth holders have an assurance that there'll be no loss of parking space in the new North Quay loading bay when it's completed?
- **EC** confirmed that the layby will be increased in size and will remain in its previous location in front of the NQ gatehouse. Signs will be clearly in place to identify it as a loading bay with the current time and space restrictions.
- **CT** – asked about the NQ car park future and facilities for Berth-holders. **EC** advised that the harbour required facilities and car parking at this location, but it will be presented in consultation for the redevelopment of that area.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **DB** – Asked when the 4Knot marker buoys would be positioned in the bay this year. **EC** confirmed that they would be going out at the beginning of April prior to the Easter Holidays.
- **AA** – Advised that Bob Summerhayes has resigned his position of Substitute to the Commercial Fishermen Representative and Edgar Moxom will be taking on the role.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

- 13 May 2026
- 19 August 2026
- 11 November 2026
- 10 February 2027

Harbours Advisory Committee

- 04 March 2026
- 10 June 2026
- 16 September 2026
- 02 December 2026
- 03 March 2027