

Present

Tim Day	TD	Chair and Clubs of Weymouth Representative
Ed Carter	EC	Weymouth Harbour Master
Jamie Pullin	JP	Charter Boats Representative and Vice Chair
Andy Alcock	AA	Commercial Fishermen Representative
Ben Heath	BH	Weymouth Beach / Leisure Users Representative
Mary Harris	MH	Weymouth Harbour Watch and Harbour Traders Representative
Tim Anderton	TA	RNLI Representative Substitute
Amanada Anderson	AA	Dorset Police Resilient Communities Coordinator
Andy Turtle	AT	Dorset Police Citizen Policing Manager
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 Rob Hughes, Cllr Kate Wheller, Adrian Best, Alan Hale, Paul Swain, Will Holmes and Simon Kershaw with substitutes Ben and Tim representing them.

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.

The start to the season in April was quiet mainly due to weather and an early Easter. Marina Occupancy peaked last year at 92.5%, and then steep reduction in occupancy during October. We're seeing a real shift or an increase in the popularity of six-month summer berths, with annual customers changing to six months and then returning each year on that berthing term. Thus, reducing their winter berthing costs. With economic factors (fuel costs, cost of living) impacting boating activity the Moorings team have been proactively contacting customers and managing waiting lists, though some customers are delaying decisions or selling vessels.

Harbour Activity over April had visitor numbers slightly down vs last year but have started to pick up in May with visitor berth use being steady with regular visits from training vessels, Sea Cadets, Border Force. Yacht rallies remain popular with the

early May Bank Holiday having 50+ rally visitors. Commercial fishing activity is stable and overall, no unusual patterns – consistent with wider marina trends.

Staffing Updates: With the Assistant Harbour Master role being filled by Liam Rowland (internal promotion) and with Richard Drabwell and Simon Powell leaving, new permanent berthing officers were recruited. Freya Lewis, Holly Nash and James Ashington were excellent internal candidates from our seasonal staff. New seasonal staff were then recruited with Bill McCarthy (Navy/commercial background) and Graham Cooper (leisure boating) joining us. Moorings Administrator Bev Spears has increased her hours, and Carrie Swan has been recruited to cover Bev on Mon–Tue + weekends for the season. The overall team is now fully staffed with strong experience.

2.0 Incidents

Incidents Since Last Meeting - 56 incidents reported (higher than expected but mostly minor). Common issues include anti-social behaviour (intoxication, unauthorised access), pier jumping, minor vandalism. Other incidents include a person fell into harbour (quick recovery), medical events linked to intoxication and swimming across harbour entrance. Vessel-related incidents of minor collisions, breakdowns, tow assists with no serious injuries or major damage. Bridge operations had one failure which caused a 25 min delay. There has been some general misuse by pedestrians/cyclists noted when bridge lifts have been happening.

AA – Raised the issue of the notice board and lights on Boot Hill that warn traffic of a bridge lift were light not working. **EC** to investigate.

During the summer, I will be joining the 100 days of summer meetings again. And there will be a weekly meeting on a Wednesday morning where we talk between the police and the CSAS officers and youth and social. Information from these will be reported back as well.

Pollution & Enforcement has been some minor pollution incidents, including some small diesel slicks (under investigation) and suspected discharge from storm drain (likely camper van waste) which the Environment Agency were contacted about. Due to our new CCTV, we have successfully identified offenders who have placed waste oil dumped and fly-tipping (construction waste) in bins. The offenders are being contacted and action taken regarding this. There have been no major pollution events requiring escalation.

And there are currently two investigations going on with excessive wash.

3.0 Operations

Fire within the marina areas has long been identified as one of the highest risks, both to person and property, that we manage. This has been highlighted by the recent fire at Portland marina, which is believed to have originated from electrical equipment on board a vessel. Earlier in the year, work had already begun in liaising with Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue to produce and MoU for the three DC harbours, to aid in firefighting. As part of this work, a multi-agency emergency exercise with Dorset Fire

& Rescue is being planned for September with focus on an improved response, access, and preparedness.

4.0 Other Harbour Updates

The large motor yacht that was due in has now advised that it has been sold by the owner and will not require a berth in the summer.

AA – Asked if any notification had been provided regarding dredging works in the Nature Reserve of Radipole lake and would this effect the silt being washed into the harbour. Would this effect the water that is used for the Weyfish tanks? **EC** to investigate with Matt Piles.

5.0 Harbour Works

Include the completed Westway Gatehouse refurbishment, the Trinity Road pontoon water supply added and piling removal at Custom House Quay. Ongoing works and planned include CCTV upgrades across marina and slipway, the Harbour wall monitoring (minor subsidence near Stone Pier Café), the Cargo stage resurfacing (target: mid-June), the Stone Pier railing replacement (in progress) and the Sand Jetty structural survey (June).

AA – Asked about the old Victorian cast iron the railings on the North Quay pavement being replaced with galvanised poles and green bollards. **EC** will follow up with Highways on this.

AA - Raised the 5 ladders along the wall at North Quay and the usefulness of them being there with railings in place. **EC** confirmed that the ladders are there for anyone who has fallen into the deep-water section of the harbour and every 30 metres is the standard. The railings should be navigable if a person was able to climb up the ladder.

The Fuel Pontoon is now operational after major delays/issues due to significant contractor problems resolved (system redesign). It is planned to also include a waste pump-out facility on the pontoon as well, but the challenge is that it cannot connect directly to sewer and requires holding tank, which would incur high disposal costs (~£600 per empty). Our aim is to keep this service free, if possible, but may potentially be subsidised by fuel sales – TBC.

6.0 Upcoming Events

- Fayre in the Square – 23 & 24 May
- Wessex Folk Festival – 30 & 31 May
- Dorset Artisan Market – 19 June, 17 July, 14 August.
- Seafood Festival – 4–5 July
- Lifeboat Week – 6 to 13 of August
- RYA IQ Foil World Championships – 4–12 September; discussions on demonstrations on final day alongside the wall and Alpha pontoon used.
- Waverley visits – 3–4, 9, and 13 September.
- Ironman – 20 September
- Beach Motorcross – 10 & 11 October

6. CONSULTATIVE GROUP UPDATE

TA - RNLI

- 28 launches from 36 callouts
- Many incidents involve people in the water
- The long-delayed boathouse refurbishment is now underway with the Lifeboat Station relocated to the Old Dive Shop for 6 months.

AA - Commercial Fishermen

- Fuel costs significantly impacting Charter operators and Recreational use
- Commercial sector has had the loss of a long-standing operator, but new entrant added
- Request regarding the pontoon between Weyfish and Charlie pontoon – **EC** confirmed that a funding bid is underway to provide it and looking at utilizing the leisure pontoons once refurbishment is underway.

AA/AT - Dorset Police

- Update from AB - thefts of Suzuki outboard gear box legs around the Portland area. There hadn't been any other thefts reported since that. And to reiterate Operation Kraken and report any suspicious incidents because they all help.
- There have been some issues at the end of Wareham Channel, similar to similar sort of incidents, and it's just before any of the boat jumble start to appear at that end of the county.
- There is an upcoming Conference / Engagement Event of proposed security-focused marine conference similar to "security/float" theme (title TBC), on 3rd February at the Harbour Commissioners Office, Poole (North Terminal). Where speakers/partners include Receiver of Wreck and Historic England. The purpose of the event is to educate private boat owners on risks and security. There is potential to replicate event locally but requires a suitable venue.

MH - Harbour Traders Association

- Harbour Traders confirm that it's very quiet still with some passing trade from the Cruise ships
- Ongoing issues remain regarding the flooding under Town Bridge; **EC** confirmed that Highways consider this issue closed and will raise it again as the flooding continues and the drain does not clear.
- Parking issues around the harbourside during evenings and weekends, people using the loading bays and parking on double yellow lines around Brewers Quay. This blocks the RNLI volunteers from access and parking when on a shout. Also, a concern is the parking by Blue Badge holders around Weymouth. **EC** confirmed he will raise with Cllr Hughes and Cllr Andrews, the Portfolio holder at Dorset Council.
- High visiting vessel charges are considered one of the reasons for lack of customers and was questioned in line with other South Coast harbours/marinas. **EC** confirmed that visitor rates had not increased from last year but needed to cover the cost of maintaining and improving the harbour facilities.

JP - Charter Boats

- Nothing to report apart from fuel costs severely impacting trips.

TD - Clubs of Weymouth

- The season has started and there is an open day at the Weymouth Sailing Club this Saturday 16 May.

BH - Weymouth Beach / Resort Leisure Users

- Rafts will not be installed this summer though a Working group to review future options.
- An inclusive access project is underway to develop accessible beach/blue space initiative.

MH/AA Weymouth Harbour Watch / Dorset Police

- Weymouth currently has 81 Harbour Watch members; aim to increase participation through “Days of Action” across Dorset to promote:
 - Harbour Watch
 - Heritage Watch (now established)
 - Hotel Watch
- Total Watch membership across Dorset: 906, but 400 members are not coastal based (registered with home postcodes inland). This limits effectiveness of targeted alerts (Dorset Alert system). We need to encourage members to register with their boat/location postcode (e.g. Harbour Office postcode DT4 8BG) to receive relevant alerts.
- Security Marking Event was held in April but with low attendance due to the weather. Another will be held later on in the year. Commercial marking is still to be arranged. **AA/JP/SJ**.

7. AGENDA ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

- **TD** – Requested an update on the fuel pontoon. **EC** provided this in his update.
- **AH** – Items raised by NQ & WW Rd pontoon berth-holders:
 - The water pressure on the pontoons, especially on NQ, is often very low or non-existent. Berth holders frequently have problems filling water tanks or washing down boats. Can this be addressed please? **EC** advised that this has been investigated in relation to the pump capacity and system setup. The external contractor failed to resolve issue over several months and now has been told to resolve it quickly or replace it.
 - Berth holders are frequently phoning the HM's office to ask for the breaker for the NQ pontoons to be reset. Can anything be done to reduce the frequency of the breaker tripping out? A faulty 12v relay has recently been bypassed, and since then, no reports of the breaker tripping have been received, and an independent contractor is assessing the systems further to make the fix permanent.. Budget has already allocated for full upgrade if required.
 - A blade mop, or similar, has been requested for the NQ female showers. Can this be supplied asap please to avoid a possible injury caused by the slippery floor? Yes, it can, **EC** to ensure it is ordered and placed in situ.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **EC** – Advised that Callum Seggie has come to the end of his tenure and EC is in communication with him about a replacement. Rob Gray has also tended his resignation and Dan Bell as the Substitute is happy to take over.
- **AH** has advised that Colin Thomas, his deputy, has stood down and would like to express his thanks for his input and support on behalf of berth holders
- **TD** – Regarding Reversing into one-way system and it potentially blocking access routes, especially near Pilgrim House corner. Could it be considered that communication is reinforced to prevent obstruction of access/berths during the Fayre in the Square event. **EC** to pass this request to Highways.

8. DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Harbour Consultative Group

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

Harbours Advisory Committee

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