

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)

Meeting 2 February 2026 Haddon House 18:00

Present

Amanda Anderson	(AA)	Resilient Communities Coordinator
Adrian Best	(AB)	Maritime Policing Team, Marine Tactical Advisor
Johnathan Bourbon	(JB)	Town council
Emma Bourne	(EB)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep (HCG Chair)
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Mark Cornwell	(MC)	Commercial Fisherman Rep
Jane Hallet	(JH)	Non-Boating Water Activities Sub
Sam Hanbury	(SH)	Harbour Traders Sub
Ben Harvey	(BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
Cllr Rob Hughes	(Cllr RH)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Admin Officer – Note Taker
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Andrew Taylor	(AT)	Residents Rep
Border Force	(BF)	Home Office Field officer

1. Welcome & introductions				Action
EB – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, round the room introductions were given.				
2. Apologies				
David Boyland – Non-Commercial moorings rep Debbs Urch – Gig club rep Jason Matthews – Gig club sub Paula Bates – Canoe club Simon Baxter – Canoe club				
3. Minutes of the previous meeting				
AA – Requested amendments. Attended from Marine Police, Andy Turtle not Adrian best. Update to job title.				
4. Outstanding actions from previous meetings				
ID	Action	Assigned	Date of completion	
28/4/25 9.	Contact Fishermen's Rep re meeting attendance	EB	Actioned	
14.	Meet to discuss dog signage	EB - JR	On going	
18.	Talk to Angling Centre re crabbing code	RG	Remove, not practical in WB	
18.	Speak with Wildlife Trust re crab line bins	EB	On going, EB to speak with new contact	
3/11/25 5.	Contact Canoe club re meeting attendance	EB	Actioned	
7.	Speed watch group, discuss with interested parties	EB	Volunteers have come forward, AT to take charge.	
8.	Circulate links, harbour watch, crime stoppers & DP reporting line	JR	Actioned	
5. Representatives and Substitutes				
Harbour Traders Rep confirmed - Keston Bracey. 3-year tenures renewed, Jane Hallet – Non-Boating Water Activities Sub Emma Bourne – Non-Boating Water Activities Sub				
6. Harbours Advisory Committee Chair's updates				

No updates	
7. Marine Police update & Harbour Watch	
<p>AA - Asked how ASB diving has been and has it been reported? EB – As a regular cyclist, I have witnessed cars over taking at speed. AB – Contact has been made with colleagues in that area, although challenging to tackle it is a priority. Please continue to report incidents. AB – Will forward information with regards to accessing crime stats in specific areas. EB – Voiced concern about reporters’ attitudes when they believe the police have not acted, attitude could say what’s the point. AA – Enforcement action is placed where evidence allows. AB - Supported this, noting that there appears to be a renewed push from MPT, with more funding being directed back into neighbourhood policing. Bridport is expected to receive a few additional officers.</p> <p>EB – To work with the Town Council to ensure this is recognised as a wider Bridport issue, not just a West Bay issue.</p> <p>AA – Added that the Community Speed Watch initiative will hopefully make a positive difference.</p> <p>It was noted that the CCTV cameras are not currently connected to the central DC system. JB - Will liaise with the Town Council and consult with CC4 to explore integration with central monitoring stations.</p> <p>AB - Reported that last summer was particularly busy, with the marine unit operating between April & September. They were also drawn back into conservation work. Bournemouth was especially busy last year.</p> <p>EB – Requested an update from harbour watch, has anyone reported any issues? Is it working? AB – Reported a very low crime rate in WB and LR. the dolphin received a volume of reports, but no crime waves. AA – Confirmed they can provide information on current membership numbers.</p> <p>https://www.dorset.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/wsi/watch-schemes-initiatives/harbour-watch/harbour-watch/harbour-watch-contact-form/ This form is for reporting non-emergency incidents. If a crime is in progress or someone is in immediate danger, please dial <u>999</u>.</p> <p>Home Page - Dorset Alert This form is to sign up to Dorset Alert community messaging system operated by Dorset Police.</p>	
8. Border Force	
<p>Project Kraken allows members of the public to report suspicious or unusual activity along the coastline—anonously if they wish. We have posters available if anyone would like to display them.</p> <p>We receive reports from across the county, including incidents such as items or suitcases being transferred between vessels. Cutter teams conduct regular patrols and are ready to respond to any directions or intelligence.</p> <p>All information is passed to the Field Intelligence Officer, who will make contact where required. Project Kraken is aimed at raising awareness and encouraging reporting from the wider public.</p> <p>AB also plans to come down during the summer to have more maritime presence through Dorset.</p> <p>“We will look into arranging an engagement meeting to brief staff on Project Kraken and teach them what indicators to look out for when reporting suspicious activity.”</p>	
9. Harbour Masters update	
<p>HRO, went through on 26th January 2026 and will be in force from 20th February 2026. Instructions have been sent to our solicitors to set general directions out for consultation in due course.</p>	

SH – Expressed concern over the recent increase in fees for harbour traders and pressure from Asset and Property to sign leases. Requested reassurance on the situation.

JR – Due to the HRO, there has been a delay in renewing harbour trader leases. From the 20th of February, new leases can be issued with longer term licences.

Although the harbours receive the income, Assets and Property manage leases. They are aware of the HRO delays and outcomes.

EB – Asked if harbours could be in control of managing these properties?

JR – Confirmed that this is not possible as there is no capacity or scope for the harbours to manage all leases.

A Question was raised regarding the kiosk that has recently become vacant and what the plans are for it?

JR – Advised that the intention is for the harbour to retain and operate the kiosk.

However, some renovation work is required before it can be brought back into use.

Funding has been secured for the harbour cranes, including replacing one existing crane and installing two additional new units. A 75% grant will support the project, with installation expected to be completed by the end of March.

It is hoped that this investment will attract more fishing vessels to the harbour.

Outer Harbour Sand – It was noted that recent weather conditions have resulted in significant amounts of sand from Chesil Beach being deposited into the outer harbour.

A crane and grab have been deployed to remove the build-up. Harbour staff and mariners have been advised, larger vessels in particular, do not attempt entry during the affected period. The issue has followed approximately three weeks of adverse weather. The team is making the most of the spring tides to help manage the situation and are opening the sluice gates to assist in flushing out the accumulated sand.

Water injection dredging, the trial dredge carried out was not a fair trial due to weather.

Further dredging is scheduled to begin tomorrow, starting in the East basin.

The team plan to return on the big spring tides on the 18th to complete dredging in the outer harbour, with the aim of concluding this year's dredging programme.

EB – Asked if monitoring of the reef is due to be completed and requested feedback on any identified effects.

EC – Confirmed there will be a meeting at the end of January with a further meeting mid-February to discuss the survey regime. There are varied reef systems however they are no stranger to sediment.

All steps and measures are to be evidenced, we will consider another avenue, if necessary, movement to the east beach will only occur in an emergency.

Black hut – Work is still underway to finalise the plans and obtain prices. We aim to complete preparation in March ready for opening in April.

10. User Representatives reports

No reports received.

AT – Mentioned that during periods of bad weather, the harbour staff have attended the area to remove all debris, with use of the JCB. Their support is greatly appreciated and as a resident I feel privileged to have their service.

11. Q&A's

Q - Did Fish pass at Pymore collect any piles to assist with their work?

A - No, we have received no response.

12. AOB

EB – Advised that Alice Higgins RNLI, can complete a pre-report on public rescue equipment if permission is granted by the landowners.

JR – This had been completed some time ago with the RNLI.

EB – Suggested a life ring to be placed on the side of black hut. There is one currently on the harbour side and it would be good to keep this one in place too.

Meeting Dates for the Remainder of the Year

Provisional dates agreed:

Monday 11 May 2026

Monday 2 November 2026

Meeting concluded 19:30	
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