

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 10 October 2022 The Salt House 18:30

Present

Aubery Banfield (AB)	Commercial Fisherman Rep
Sarah Bennett (SB)	Harbour Traders Rep
Emma Bourne' (EB)	Non-Boating Water Activities (Position to be confirmed)
Gavin Brooking (GB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ken Buchan (KB)	Head of Environment & Wellbeing
Benjamin Harvey (BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
David Lohfink (DL)	Gig Club rep
Becky McGowan (BM)	Harbour Admin Officer, Note Taker
Simon Miles (SM)	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Rep & (Group Chair)
James Radcliffe (JR)	Harbour Master
Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)	Dorset Council Harbours Committee Chair

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
SM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting, individual introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Mark Cornwell – Commercial Fisherman Rep Daryl Chambers – Town Council Rep	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
<p>Actions –</p> <p>It is hoped to gain more feedback from the Town Council within these meetings, JR to speak with Daryl Chambers to encourage a Councillor to attend. . JR will chase Sarah Williams.</p> <p>SB - Is working with BM to draw up a contact list of the Harbour Traders. . Clarity around retailers to contact given, these include cafes, pubs, shops in the Harbour area. . It was proved difficult to gain contact information from Dorset Council departments due to GDPR. . SB visited some retailers; it was suggested more door to door canvassing would be useful. . SM suggested a contact of an individual who runs a beach café, some interest had been shown for Harbour Traders substitute. Will provide contact details to SB . Harbour staff wrote and hand delivered letters to retailers containing SB contact details.</p> <p>Are the plastic orange and white bollards/barriers going to be replaced by something more attractive? . The scheme is being looked at and is hoped to be complete before the new season. The orange and white barriers will be replaced with bollards.</p> <p>Is it possible to have Beach huts along west beach promenade? . No further progress yet, a business plan will need to be developed and approved. . SM asked if this is a realistic idea to continue with? . JR responded, yes there are benefits to be investigated.</p> <p>It was asked if the lifeguards produce reports of incidents. . JR responded, once a report has been produced it will be circulated.</p> <p>. JR continues to investigate a suitable barrier system.</p> <p>. There is no progress on the CCTV update yet.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>SB – BM</p> <p>SM</p> <p>JR</p>
4. Harbours Committee Chairs Update	
Weymouth Harbour Master left post on the 12 August 2022, He laid great foundations for Weymouth to continue improvements. We are now recruiting for this position.	

<p>The recruited Assistant Harbour Masters a working well.</p> <p>Gary Smart retired from Dorset Council at the end of September 2022, Gary was a long-standing member that worked with us for over 50 years starting work with Wey port in March 1990.</p> <p>Weymouth town bridge in need of repairs, some crucial welding works is currently underway. Bridge lifts will continue to operate however need to be booked before 4pm the day prior.</p> <p>Cllr MR – Attended the BBA launch recently and the Southampton boat show and expressed his thoughts on how great they were. He will also attend the next BBA launch on the 14th October.</p> <p>A benchmark Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) audit was undertaken by the Designated Person (DP), William Heaps of Marico Marine on the Marine Safety Management System. It was the opinion of the DP that Bridport Harbour was not complaint with the requirements of the PMSC at that time. A schedule of action was presented at the Harbours committee on 28th September 2022 with a timetable to bring the Harbour back into compliance.</p> <p>The grant for Phase 5 engineering works on the Cobb Lyme Regis has been approved, unfortunately with some delays due to surveying. Works are scheduled to start during the summer 2024 on the seaside wall. During the winter works begin on the inner wall.</p> <p>MR – Commented, the Bridport news reported incorrect figures for Harbours highlighting a decrease in activity. These figures were produced up to July, August figures were missed which does prove otherwise that the Harbours were well used this year and at full capacity in some areas. JR – Explained figures were provided late due to waiting for reconciliation issues to be resolved. MR – Attempted to contact editors but wasn't successful. DL – Suggested reporting the previous years figures along with current for comparison if this were to happen again.</p> <p>There is work underway to complete an asset management plan by the end of March.</p>	
5. Harbour Master update	
<p>JR – Gave an overview of the Harbour Masters report.</p> <p>Added, Lyme Regis have been working on a Water Safety information QR code that links to the Harbour Website. This is now up and running and stickers have been produced and placed on life rinks around the Harbour. The safety guide is designed to provide water safety information, and all can access it. The idea came from issues arising at the Harbour entrance. The Water Safety QR link will be developed across Bridport also.</p> <p>Engineer works, . A future project is being looked at for the area where the rocks are, to the left of the Harbour Masters office. We are investigating two options, an extension for a parking area or an area for more pontoon. MR – Asked if the wooden framework currently there will be removed? JR – Yes AB – Mentioned the tide effect and swells around this area and to bare this in mind when looking into options. AB – Suggested a 3-board landing be built above it? JR – Noted suggestion and advised an engineer report will be taken before progressing. We also be looking at more timber piling on east side.</p>	
6. User representative reports	

<p>Group reports received and to be circulated with notes,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harbour Masters report - Gig Club report - Non-Commercial Mooring Holders - Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels <p>Gig Club – Gave an overview of report received. To be circulated with notes.</p> <p>Commercial Passenger Carrying vessels. – Gave an overview of the report. To be circulated with notes.</p> <p>. Signage at the top of the steps is under review.</p> <p>. Hard pontoon at bottom of steps – BH explained the commercial section was removed due to lack of tripping boats, it will be extended if it has more usage. Overnighters can use the plastic pontoon sections.</p> <p>. More cleats were requested to assist better boat parking, it is felt they aren't in the correct place and ropes wear quickly. BH will replace non-working ones this year and investigate costs of adding more.</p> <p>JR – Some pontoon sections will need replacing soon, adding cleats to these could be wasting money.</p> <p>General cleats on land are distanced at every 5m.</p> <p>. The slipway pontoon was extended by 10m by an additional 5m and use of spares. The pontoon can't be extended further due to tides.</p> <p>MR – Suggested using the West side of the wall?</p> <p>JR – This area was used previously but there is too much movement along the wall to safely manoeuvre vessels.</p> <p>JR – Pontoons are expensive and would need funding to purchase. Will look at these options once we understand the income from the HRO.</p> <p>. Dredging. The licence will be out to consultation this week for 28 days. It will go to tender at the end of October for pricing next year, March - April. Licences are now every 5 years; dredging can be booked without needing to apply for licencing.</p> <p>A discussion was held around bins and recycling. It is felt more bins are needed and made available for different materials, recycling, bait bins and general waste. Although some are available, they aren't used correctly.</p> <p>Q - Is there is a recycle point?</p> <p>A - there is only 1.</p> <p>MR – will raise this issue with Waste Services within Dorset Council and query how much of the black bag collections are sorted.</p> <p>BH – There is a current rat issue around the Harbour, reported cause from the bins. This has been reported to waste partnerships.</p> <p>Non-commercial Moorings – Gave an overview of the report, to be circulated with notes.</p> <p>No feedback from holders, JR suggested adding an opt out question on mooring renewals. opt out if you do not wish your contact details to be passed onto your representative.</p> <p>Q - Where is pontoon overnight stays income report?</p> <p>It was asked if this could be added into the HM report.</p> <p>JR – Will look at providing this information in future reports.</p> <p>Q – Feedback for visiting boats?</p> <p>A – The Harbours receive thank you letters or cards from visitors. It was suggested a feedback page be set up on the Harbour website. BM to action.</p> <p>The slipway is inspected regularly and cleaned. The only issue is the tide getting lower after cleaning, it shows more algae and looks as if cleaning hasn't been done.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>BM</p> <p>JR</p> <p>BM</p>
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<p>The use of previous anti foul can't be used now, and products used currently aren't strong enough, other products we would like to try aren't certified so can't be used either. A ribbed surface was used previously but caused issues further issues.</p> <p>Direct Debit standing order for fees. JR – This is done for commercial user only. To allow this for private users would create more work to set up and monitor with only one admin staff member. We are looking into the use of a new database where customers can have access to their own Harbour accounts. Here they will be able to check their finances and have direct contact.</p> <p>Q - Dinghy parking, some individuals are not using proper rope, who is responsible? A - The owner is responsible. We will monitor and advise anyone not using suitable ropes.</p> <p>It is felt the mechanic work is reluctantly being taken on. BH -Parts are on back order.</p> <p>MR – There has been two thefts off boats in the Harbour, has any more been reported? JR – CCTV to be checked. AB – Confirmed two tenders had been stolen from one member over the summer, it was advised all tenders be locked in the racks.</p> <p>Commercial Fisherman – JR is aware of the only issue raised to do with the crane. . It was requested parking and boat storage be kept at a safe distance from where the fisherman work. . JR will pick up the issue regarding gear storage and investigate options. A clear guide of what the racks can be used for and what space can be used will be provided.</p> <p>Q - Is there any scope to put a rack up for rent? JR – This is an option, will investigate.</p> <p>Traders – Emphasised issue with bins, there is regular collection but not enough.</p> <p>Q - Parking permit holders, how can we identify them? A – Permits are to be collected from the Harbour office. Stickers are available.</p> <p>Q – How do we police the parking area with those taking advantage? A – The harbour is looking into parking orders given HRO. Anyone parking without a permit could be fined.</p> <p>It is felt the seagull signs are in the wrong place, can they be moved closer to the sheds? JR – We can investigate this. Seagull guano is an issue, suggestions were made to help control this baring in mind they are a protected species. Examples, birth control, inflatable scarecrows. MR - Will find out who the best person is to talk to. The Hawk was used for 3 years previously without much effect.</p> <p>East beach, an object thought to be boat ruins has been spotted. During low tide it lays roughly 3m below. It is a health and safety concern. It has been reported to Dorset Council engineering team and a buoy has been placed to mark the area. JR – Will speak with Wessex Waters during their works, to see if they can investigate it. SM – Offered the use of his equipment to investigate and identify the object. Cllr R – Suggested offering the opportunity to a Portland diving instructor, to use as an exercise for a class. EB – Suggested a procedure needs to be drawn up for future events like this as there is no clear direction of how to or who deals with it.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>MR</p> <p>JR</p>
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<p>JR – To investigate.</p> <p>Non-Boating Water Activities – EB would like to offer her time and represent non-boating water activities in the consultative group. There is no representative currently.</p> <p>. There are around 100 people joined to a Facebook group. 209 people on a WhatsApp group, mainly local and waters users who would like representation.</p> <p>JR – To put in a recommendation to the Harbours Committee, next meeting in December.</p> <p>KB – Gave a brief overview of the terms of reference to be sent to EB.</p> <p>EB – To discuss safety equipment around the Harbour with JR.</p> <p>SB – Asked if a bike rack could be along the east pier? JR – To investigate.</p> <p>Dogs on the beach, signage seems confusing. MR – To speak with the dog warden within Dorset council.</p> <p>Concerns were raised regarding fishing off piers, lines and hooks found by swimmers. Updated signage is in place. KB – Asked if there are any bylaw for angling? JR – Is unsure, this could develop general directions.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>JR</p> <p>MR</p> <p>JR</p>
7. Q&A's	
8. Any other business	
Meeting concluded 20:29	