

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 22 March 2022 The Salt House 18:00

Present

Aubrey Banfield (AB)	Commercial Fishermen Sub
Gavin Brooking (GB)	Non-Commercial Mooring Rep
Ken Buchan (KB)	Head of Environment & wellbeing
Sarah Bennett (SB)	Traders Rep
Ben Harvey (BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
David Lohfink (DL)	Gig Club Re
Becky McGowan (BM)	Admin Officer, Note Taker
Simon Miles (SM)	Consultative 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	
John West – Community Forum Rep Mark Cornwall – Commercial Fishermen Rep Daryl Chambers – Town Council	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
<p>The Harbour Consultative Group has had some recent changes to contacts.</p> <p>Grant Butcher Representative of the Community Forum has stood down, John West will take over as Representative from substitute, no substitute yet replaced.</p> <p>Helen Sawyer Representative of the Traders has stood down, Sarah Bennett will take over Representative from substitute, no substitute yet replaced.</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.</p> <p>SB - Is working with BM to draw up a contact list of the Harbour Traders, SB suggested face to face visits with each trader.</p> <p>It was mentioned that certain group members were not receiving their email meeting invitations. BM to sent emails via Cc not Bcc as firewalls on individual accounts may be the cause.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>BM</p>
4. Harbours Committee Chairs Updates	
<p>MR - Announced the passing of David Sales on the 6th March 2022. David had a huge interest and impact on the fishing industry and stood on the IFCA board for 46 years.</p> <p>A full Council meeting was held in person on the 14 February 2022, the Harbour budge was presented for approval, all 69 Councillors approved.</p> <p>The Harbours Committee meeting was held 16th March 2022, the Harbours strategy Has now been confirmed.</p> <p>Two new independent members have been appointed, both of whom have sailing experience. Their knowledge and expertise are welcomed.</p> <p>Weymouth works, MIDAS who were originally contracted went bust, this was sub contacted, works are now being carried out and is hoped to be finished in two</p>	

<p>weeks.</p> <p>SM – Asked if there were any urgency or consequences from the delay in of the HRO?</p> <p>KB - MCA had ongoing issues with drafting of the revision order due to general directions, historic bylaws for example, HRO gives right to rewrite the bylaws. The Harbour is running business as usual until new one is approved. The delay is not affecting anything for harbours.</p> <p>MR – Attended a meeting with Blue Marine along with fishing reps from West Bay, Lyme Regis and Exmouth and discussed the static netting of larger boats coming in. A letter will be sent to the Minister to request action.</p>	
<p>5. Harbour Master Update</p>	
<p>JR – Gave a brief update of the Harbour Masters report.</p> <p>SB - Asked where the dredged material is going?</p> <p>JR – West Cliff beach.</p> <p>SB – Asked how long he dredging will take?</p> <p>JR – Two weeks.</p> <p>It was mentioned the Harbour webcam is used frequently by the early morning swimmers; JR added, the webcam is viewed around 1.5million times a year.</p> <p>SB – Queried if there will be a trace sediment done anytime soon and how this works?</p> <p>JR – This could be conducted by coloured stones or by signal chips added into pebbles however we aren't certain how this one will be conducted.</p> <p>SB – Mentioned the rubbish accumulating on the east beach from the dredging works.</p> <p>JR – Added that daily visits are made to help with clearance of the rubbish.</p> <p>KB - Asked if mesh nets could be used?</p> <p>JR – Nets can't be used as large amounts of rubbish and pebbles are picked up, these will build up quickly and cause blockage.</p> <p>SM – Suggested we publicise the potential risks from the rubbish and to communicate our understanding and notify our actions.</p> <p>SB – Is involved with the Beach cleans and thought she could get the scouts involved as a learning experience.</p> <p>BH – Asked anyone to hand in any large buoys that are found as these belong to and will be returned to the muscle farm.</p> <p>Sluice gates and motors being replaced by the environment agency.</p>	
<p>6. User representative reports</p>	
<p>Gig club - Report received and to be circulated with minutes. Contacts to be updated.</p> <p>Commercial Fishermen – Not much activity throughout the winter. Nothing to report.</p> <p>Traders –SB will message people for their contact information. Some members have requested the following points or questions to be raised.</p> <p>Are the plastic orange and white bollards/barriers going to be replaced by something more attractive? This was raised with the Town Council previously but was directed to highways.</p> <p>MR – Advised he has meeting with highways soon and will raise this question.</p> <p>Can Bridport have a non-motorised users rep for water users. There is currently</p>	<p>MR</p>

<p>190 members in a WhatsApp group that could have a voice within the group. KB - We will look at the availability.</p> <p>There are concerns about sea quality. Testing of the water quality doesn't get done on the east, only the west. MR added that Wessex waters are being challenged by the MP JR – To get information on when testing is next being carried out.</p> <p>During heavy rain there is some overflow from the sewage system. This information can be accessed on the app Safer Seas & River Services.</p> <p>Shaping of the east beach, when is this happening? JR – Advised this is an Environment Agency task who do monitor this via CCTV.</p> <p>Is it possible to have Beach huts along west beach promenade? JR - We did look into this as a scheme for the harbour previously, we will re-visit this as they could be a good asset.</p> <p>When are the lifeguards starting East beach? Weekend cover will begin 30th April including the early May bank holiday, through to half term – covering 28th May through to 5th June. Then weekends again up to 9th July and back to 7 days per week.</p> <p>It was asked if the lifeguards produce reports of incidents. JR – Added that report information could be useful, they could be circulated amongst the group or send an invitation for someone to attend the group meetings. Last year there were 51 aided and 48 incidents.</p> <p>Non-Commercial Moorings -Nothing to report</p> <p>Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels – It was asked if a section of the pontoon can be held back for commercial vessels? JR – Yes, these were dropped previously due to vessels not being used.</p> <p>It was asked if dredging dates can be fixed at an earlier date moving forward? Charter boats have had to cancel trips as they are unable to get in and out of the Harbour. JR – The contractor won't come earlier in the year due to the unpredictable weather conditions, We can try for the beginning of April, this year dredging is later than usual due to licencing issue which will be resolved by next before the next dredge. We will hold a five-year license and go to tender for dredging on a 4-year deal. We will confirm fixed dates then. Metal pontoons will be placed tomorrow.</p> <p>The dredging comes at a busy time for charter boats, the contractor will work with Harbour users to keep a clear channel.</p>	<p>KB – JR</p> <p>JR</p> <p>JR</p>
<p>7. Q&A's</p>	
<p>SM – Are RNLI events running? JR – The original date booked clashed with powerboat event, so it was cancelled, currently awaiting further information. The raft race will be held on the 21st July 2022</p> <p>Will more pontoon be placed in the outer Harbour from the pontoon purchased from Weymouth.? JR – There was a misunderstanding of this purchase and ended up with less than originally thought. The commercial finger will be changed to new pontoon but can't extended. 10m will be added to the section nearest the slipway.</p> <p>When will parking invoices be produced? JR - 1st April at a fee of £263 fee for commercial users.</p>	

Can we have 2 dash stickers to have a choice between using a Van or Car JR - Yes	
8. Any other business	
JR – Will enquire about a barrier system. SB – We have a paddle board trailer for sale if there is any interest. Harbour and local events will now be added to our Harbour website www.bridportharbour.co.uk Meeting concluded 19:25	