

Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)
Meeting 29th January 2024 The Salt House 18:00

Present

Paula Bates	(PB)	Canoe Club Sub
Simon Baxter	(SB)	Canoe Club Rep
Sarah Bennett	(SB)	Harbour Traders Rep
Emma Bourne	(EB)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep
Gavin Brooking	(GB)	Non-Commercial Mooring Rep
Ken Buchan	(KB)	Dorset Council - Head of Environment & Wellbeing
Jane Hallet	(JH)	Non-Boating Water Activities Sub
Sam Hanbury	(SH)	Harbour Traders Sub
Ben Harvey	(BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
Jason Matthews	(JM)	Gig Club Sub
Becky McGowan	(BM)	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 Advisory Committee Chair
Andrew Taylor	(AT)	West Bay Community Forum

1. Welcome & introductions -	Action
SM – Welcomed everyone and round the room introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Daryl Chambers - Bridport Town Council Rep David Boyland – Non-Commercial Moorings Sub Mark Cornwell – Commercial Fisherman Rep Sarah Williams – Bridport Town Council Sub	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
The previous meeting notes were approved. EB – Although the notes from the previous meeting are correct, the details provided at the time are now inaccurate. Agenda item 3 Harbour Watch Scheme continued in agenda item no 7.	
4. Harbour Advisory Committee Chair Updates	
Ed Carter Weymouth Harbour Master will be taking on a new dual role as of 1 st February 2024. As well as continuing as Weymouth Harbour Master he will become the Dorset Council Harbours Manager and lead on the delivery of the Harbours Strategy, Business Plans, engagement in the Levelling Up programme, and work with JR over at Bridport and Lyme Regis harbours to deliver projects. Where there are Service Managers for Environment, Leisure, and Flood and Coastal Risk Management there has, since Local Government Reorganisation, been a gap for Harbours. With changes over the last year or so at Weymouth Harbour and the introduction of two Assistant Harbour Masters, this gives some additional capacity for the Weymouth Harbour Master role to become a Harbours Manager/Weymouth Harbour Master. - It was asked how did other HM feel about it? KB – There were discussions prior to this decision, and those affected are content with the decision. The revised charges for Harbours will be put forward to full council on 14 February 2024. Weymouth Harbour levelling up bid awarded £19.5m with Dorset Council adding an additional £3.5m contribution. This involves preparing a few key areas in Weymouth including the Peninsula for regeneration opportunities. On the peninsula this includes the repair of walls F & G, and a tender process will start shortly to identify a preferred contractor for these works. Litter bins, a discussion was had with management of Dorset Waste Services. Recycling bins aren't economic as often they are contaminated with food and time	

would be required to separate out the recyclable waste. It was mentioned that some bins are being used by traders which contributes to them filling quickly. Litter free Dorset have worked with businesses to remove single use plastic as part of the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Communities campaign. Towns such as Lyme Regis, Wimborne and Dorchester have encouraged businesses to remove as least 3 pieces of single use plastic and create a ripple effect of change within their communities. It has also been suggested for visitors to bring and use their own utensils. Ian Brewer – Operations Manager for West Dorset suggested more paper usage to produce less waste and help prevent compressing issues. SM - Suggested educating people to understand how to recycle efficiently. KB - Dorset Council Waste Services do have a team who communicate and educate on waste disposal but there is a large area and population to get the message out to. Which bin do I use - Dorset Council	
5. Harbour Masters Update	
Dredging – It is set to arrive in West Bay on the 12th of February, it will then head over to Lyme Regis and back to West Bay by end of February. Sediment will be piped as before on West Cliff Beach. After the latest storms, there is a build-up of silt in the inner Harbour of around 1m, Middle of the West Basin and East Basin. We are looking at methods to clear this in March. Bins – Ian Brewer and I walked around West Bay, and it was agreed Ian would look for funding options to help fund and place bin housings for larger wheelie bins 1100ltr, around the Harbour, these are expensive at around £1800 each. These would be placed opposite kiosks, along Harbour side walkways, by Margrets ice cream and the island. The Harbour staff can remove the bins once full and replace with empty bins until collection. JR – presented pictures of the housing options. Other options will be looked at to save costs, for example Harbour staff could build them. We are hoping to have them ready by the start of the season. SM – Added that after speaking with Harbour traders, they are happy to help with sponsoring. SM – Asked if the regular bins there already will stay? JR - Yes, new bins will be additional. The Wall – Engineers are to begin their works 26th February, they will place a sheet pile line at bottom of wall and infill behind it to stabilise the base of the wall, it will take approximately 4-6 weeks. Kiosks effected have been informed. The public walkway will remain shut for this summer along with the Mound toilets. Arrangements have been made to place temporary toilets by the green. They are of better quality than previously used and there is a contracted cleaner. The main scheme works is hoped to commence in October. The large bags of stone currently in the Mound car park are there for an emergency, should the wall breach.	JR – BH
6. User Representative Reports	
GB – Raised the issues with dinghy parking, ropes and tangling is still happening. BH - Many users do not understand how to use them, we have spent time teaching	

people how to place their ropes. The Harbour staff are happy to assist with fitting ropes etc. Rope is sold at the Harbour Chandlery if they need replacing. SM – Asked if the racks can be fixed down to prevent movement? BH – Agreed to look into it. SM – Asked if there is any other space that could be utilised? BH – There are more tender racks coming, will look into it. An update was asked for regarding the mechanic. JR – We are looking at options but is hoping to have this in place for this year. SM – Asked if the Harbour is actively recruiting yet? JR – Responded not yet but we will be. GB – Asked why has it been held up? JR – Responded, the job needs evaluating, and I have not done necessities to get to that yet. MR – Mentioned the Insurance cover for third party liability had changed. JR – This has been a requirement from Dorset Council since it emerged, we have just recently been made aware. Our requirement has been changed to match that of Dorset Council. SM – Asked if there had been news from Wessex Water and consideration of removal if the metal sometimes exposed in the shallows along East Beach. JR - Diver have been down there. Will chase Apex divers. SM – Offered the use of his lit cameras. SH – Asked if there were any thoughts on signage? JR – DC will book a date to complete and sign audit. SM – Offered his assistance. JM - Gig Club are in the process of negotiating parking permits to transfer from vehicle to vehicle of around. The cost would be around £260 annually. We are also using discovery centre information. More details will be provided at next meeting. EB – Thanks were given for bike racks and building up the steps. It was reiterated the thoughts on dog signage. SB – Added, a sign to point in the direction of the beach that allows dogs all year round would be beneficial. A fresh water shower would be greatly appreciated by the cold water swimmers. SB – Added there are around 40 to 50 swimmers daily. JR – This is in the harbour plan. This went to the Harbour Advisory Committee last December and will go to Cabinet tomorrow. New changing rooms have been fitted at West Bay Road car park. MR – Asked where the funding will come from? SB - The swimmers are happy to contribute and perhaps assist with fund raising activities. EB – Mentioned a sauna would be nice. SB – There is a sauna that operates in Lyme Regis, one in Seaton and one Litton lakes that are popular. EB – Asked for a Jet ski update. MR – The proposal for Lyme Regis is currently sat with our legal team, it isn't likely to have movement this year. JH – Asked if D Rings could be fixed to posts on beach? They could be useful to tie dogs up to whilst owner is in the sea or perhaps to chain personal belongings to. JR – Agreed this could go ahead. JH – Is waiting to be added to the West Bay WhatsApp support group. SM – Email request to westbayharbournrg@gmail.com	BH JR JR DC JR
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AT – Thanks and praise were given for the clearing up after storm, there was amazing energy and area has been transformed within 36 hours.	
7. Harbour Watch Scheme	
The Bridport Harbour Watch Launch Day will be held on 20th April 10am start. Lyme Regis Harbour Watch Launch Day will be held on 13th April 10am start. We are hoping to have a stand for Harbour representatives to come along and spread the word for a meet your representative opportunity. Please let EB know of your interest. The PCC will be attending along with Maritime police, Coastguard and RNLI. It was clarified that the Harbour Watch consists of a dedicated Dorset Marine Policing team. We support the team by reporting any suspicious activity through the Harbour Watch contact form or if in an emergency dialling 999. The schemes' purpose is for intelligence gathering. It was clarified that Dorset Alert is for informing people for example of a specific area targeted for theft from the intelligence gathered from reporting. SM – Added that the WhatsApp group essentially does this. A sticker has been created from the Weymouth Harbour design with some slight changes. The QR code will take you straight to Harbour Watch page created on the Harbour website instead of Dorset Alert. Dorset Council Logo has been added. The sticker will be coloured to stand out. There are costs involved, Creative solutions quoted £122 for 250 stickers. SM – Asked if the QR codes are tracked? BM – No but can look into it. It was agreed to order 500 red stickers to begin, to be placed around the Harbour prior to the launch day. SM – Mentioned there is a Harbour watch conference at Poole ferry terminal on Wednesday 10th April 6- 9pm.	Group BM
8. Roles, Responsibilities, and Period of Representatives and Substitutes	
KB – Praised the representatives for their good communication with their representative groups. It is clear that those around the table take time to get feedback from those they represent and bring it to the meeting. The role of the Harbour Consultative Group (HCG) will be circulated to members as a reminder. Section 3.7 of the Terms of Reference outline the tenure of group members and some terms are coming to an end in April when you and your respective organisations will need to decide if you will continue to be the key representative on the HCG. The expectations of the group's 3-year term were explained. Point 3.7 in the terms of reference states; 3.7 The term of office of a member of the Consultative Group shall be three years from the date of his/her appointment and, on ceasing to hold office, (s)he shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further 3 years only. Members of the Consultative Group may at any time, by notice in writing to the Council, resign his/her office. Renewal is due in April 2024 for those who were in position from the April 2021 – Please discuss your memberships with your group and peers and decide if you would like to continue onto the next term. This includes substitutes. Please let the harbour office know if you plan to continue in your role, or if someone else from	Group

your association/organisation will be a new representative. The Harbour office will send out an email outline whose tenure is coming to an end. Should the chair and/or vice chair express that they wish to step down an expression of interest application will be circulated for these positions in advance of the next meeting, and an election will take place. SM – Added it would be good for more attendance from some members who signed up. KB – Will discuss attendance level in the terms of reference at the next meeting. JR – Mentioned his thoughts on how the group has just started to come together and become more established. It would be good for members to remain for a further 3 years before deciding to leave. SM – Informed JR he had read through the previous meeting notes from 2021 and highlighted some actions to discuss further at the next meeting. SM – Asked for an update on advertising board proposals. JR – This is with property and legal services currently.	KB BM
9. Q&As	
SB – Asked for an update on planters. JR – The team are making them now through quieter days, the older planters are hoped to be replaced also. JR – The wheelchair user beach access scheme needs a volunteer to help operate it. The Tourist Information Centre are happy to take bookings but will need someone to meet and greet. Unfortunately, the Harbour staff can't commit to this. BH – Suggested a code lock so meet and greet wouldn't be necessary. EB – Suggested speaking with Park Dean again. SM – Asked what building costs are for the office? JR – There are no plans of the office just yet.	
10. AOB	
SB – Mentioned the beach cleaning group are welcoming new members. There were around 60 people out on New Year's Day. The group get together every 3rd Sunday of the month at 10am on East Beach. JR – Requested more information to add to our website and social media pages. A FOI request from DB to parking services was made on the 30th October 2024. - Please provide the following details about each car parked in - Dorset Council West Bay car parks for the last 4 years; -Date -Parking duration -The car park e.g. Bridport Station Yard Car Park, East Beach Car Park, East Beach Car Park etc Information was unable to be provided as it is believed that it is exempt from disclosure under Section 31(1)(a) of the FOIA, pertaining to prejudice to the prevention or detection of crime. SB – Asked how likely is it that parking charges will change? KB - Thought that this was unlikely but was not in a position comment further. The parking fees are utilised on highways or for those car parks on harbour premises, income is used by the harbour. SM – Added that many people aren't coming into West Bay due to the car parking fees. Meeting concluded 20:00	