

**Bridport (West Bay) Harbour Consultative Group (BHCG)**  
**Meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 The Salt House 18:00**

**Present**

Adrian Best	(AB)	Maritime Policing Team, Marine Tactical Advisor
Jonathan Bourbon	(JB)	Town Council
Emma Bourne	(EB)	Non-Boating Water Activities Rep (HCG Chair)
Gavin Brooking	(GB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Ben Harvey	(BH)	Assistant harbour Master
Cllr Rob Hughes	(Cllr RH)	Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair
Jason Mathews	(JM)	Gig Club Sub
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Admin – Note Taker
Simon Miles	(SM)	Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Rep
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Andrew Taylor	(AT)	Community Forum Rep
Debbs Urch	(DU)	Gig Club Rep

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
JR – Welcomed everyone and round the room introductions were given.	
2. Apologies	
Paula Bates – Canoe Club Rep Simon Baxter – Canoe Club Sub Sam Hanbury – Harbour Traders Sub Mark Cornwell – Commercial Fisherman Rep David Boyland – Non-Commercial Moorings Sub	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
Update on beach signage regarding dogs. JR has met with Daryl Chambers, some signage has been agreed, a further survey will be taking place., SM – Requested the top of steps signage for boat users to be included.  Dinghy racks, will be looking at making the channels wider before the start of the season  GB – Customer service, EC – Dorset Council hold a code of conduct that all staff are to follow. In house training and top up training will be offered to all staff. Further concerns can be discussed with myself, JR or Cllr RH if it is felt any issues are ongoing. DU – Is there a compliments and complaints procedure? EC – This is published on Dorset Council website, any complaints received will be passed on to the appropriate person to deal with. SM – Supports GB and suggested a meeting with GB, EC and JR.	
4. Harbours Advisory Group Chair and Vice Chair	
No applications received for Chair or Vice Chair posts.  EB – Is happy to stand as Chair EC – Took the vote by a show of hands. A unanimous vote sees EB as the new HCG Chair.  Vacant position HCG Vice Chair.  EC – Will propose an update of the Terms of Reference to add in “In case of absence of both Chair and Vice Chair” as currently there is nothing to state the process.	EC
5. Representatives and Substitutes	
Positions of the representatives and substitutes confirmed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial Passenger Carrying Vessels Substitute – Matt Toms</li> <li>- Harbour Traders Substitute – Sam Hanbury</li> </ul> Still to confirm. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commercial Fisherman Substitute</li> </ul>	

<p>Next Tenure to confirm will be in March 25.</p> <p>AT – Is a resident of West Bay and sits on the HCG as a representative of the West Bay Community Forum, the recent WBCF meeting was well attended, with around 50 people. However, due to the rise in popularity of the bimonthly, Councillor attended ward meetings, the WBCF may be superseded. Therefore, our terms of reference will need to be updated to reflect this as the present HCG feels very strongly that there should be a resident's representative. EC and EB to discuss</p>	EC - EB
<b>6. Harbours Advisory Committee Chairs updates</b>	
<p>Cllr RH attended a meeting along with John Andrews on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February with the hut owners.</p> <p>Ken Buchan – will be leaving Dorset Council on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025 due to redundancy.</p> <p>Under the new Place structure Matt Piles has taken up his new role as Corporate Director, Strategic Director for Economic Growth.</p> <p>There is vacancy for two non-elected members, an advert has now gone live.</p>	
<b>7. Marine Police update &amp; Harbour Watch</b>	
<p>Jamie Thornton has been relocated and AB will be the point of contact.</p> <p>The Marine Policing team are made up of 6 PC's who are currently based in Poole and cover different geographical areas within 88 miles. We are looking into different bases, one being Portland.</p> <p>We aim to be out and about on our vessels frequently and engage with the public much more.</p> <p>We have received some sponsorship from the Home Office which purchased two new vessels, both can now travel further to cover a larger area.</p> <p>One of our themes is Modern Slavery Organised Immigration, we look to identify vessels bringing in people illegally.</p> <p>Crime is mainly taking place in Poole and Christchurch with anti-social behaviour around jet skis. A brief overview of crime statistics was given. Only 1 theft was reported last year in Lyme Regis last June.</p> <p>Project Kraken is a national joint law enforcement initiative to tackle maritime boarder crime and to raise public awareness of terrorism and criminal or suspicious activity around our coasts and borders, this includes Weymouth. It is important to report anything suspicious.</p> <p>EC – Reminded the group that Amanda Anderson involved in the Harbour Watch scheme encouraged engine tagging.</p>	
<b>8. Harbour Masters update</b>	
<p>JR – Provided some statistics of Harbour usage in comparison from March 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Season Tickets 20% decrease.</li> <li>-Visiting craft remained the same</li> <li>-Boat Lifting remained the same</li> <li>-Parking increased by 30%</li> <li>-Shop decreased by 13%</li> <li>-Diving air fills increased by 10%</li> <li>-Permanent mooring waiting list currently holds 10</li> <li>-Commercial waiting list currently holds 6</li> <li>-Mooring occupancy is currently at 65% private and 42% commercial. Waiting list offers have gone out, currently waiting responses.</li> </ul> <p>GB – Have moorings, increased from last year?</p> <p>JR – 60k was transferred to reserves last year, we are doing ok considering.</p> <p>Jobs,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Webcams now fitted on the end of East pier facing East and West.</li> <li>-The timber piling works will commence this week Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025.</li> </ul>	

<p>-Main chains on the West side are being disconnected, we have a vessel coming in from Portland to assist with maintenance. We intend to have them back in by March.</p> <p>Dredging, We are currently waiting on licences to complete a water injection trial, in hope of starting the new pilot scheme before the end of March. There is no barge or cables involved with water injection; it is a low-pressure water jet that is placed directly into the sediment. The sediment is then picked up by the current and taken to a lower point. The predicted timescale is 10 to 15 days to complete the outer Harbour. We need to remove ropes in the inner Harbour to dredge this area, also in plan.</p> <p>If successful, the water injection method could result in big cost cuts for the Harbour. If unsuccessful we will go back to tender. Procurement processes must go through the correct procedures which unfortunately do take time, we are trying to avoid any summer dredging.</p> <p>Pontoons, we aim to have them back in in the 1<sup>st</sup> week of April.</p> <p>The new litter bin design was trialled last summer, and went well, we plan to produce another 8 housings and remove all the small bins. JR - Passed a copy of the current and proposed location of bins plan around the group.</p> <p>Planters will be increased.</p> <p>The black hut, we are putting together plans to change to a kiosk and changing room.</p> <p>Flare Disposal, we are currently in the process of setting up a flare disposal point in the boat yard, we need to move the container and obtain a licence. We are hoping to start collections in middle of March. It has proven very popular so far, we have received lots of interest in using the facility.</p>	
<p><b>9. Harbour wall update</b></p>	
<p>In April, May, our intentions are to inject the wall every meter across the surface and down with Geopolymer resin which then expands and hardens like a rock, this will stabilise the ground.</p> <p>In October we will commence with the mains works of removing the sheet piling, plinth will be placed behind and a new wall sprayed with concrete. Capping stones will be lifted as the drop is 300ml</p> <p>EB – Asked if the path will be shut through this summer? JR – Yes, this is to be discussed with the kiosks.</p> <p>Time span October 25 through to March 26, the only delay would be licencing however applications have already been made.</p>	
<p><b>10. User representatives report</b></p>	
<p>GB – East wall ropes? BH – These will be removed and reviewed end of February.</p> <p>The two vessels on the inner pontoon will be moved soon, vessels are not meant to be just left there but these two vessels broke free from their moorings.</p> <p>DU – The Gig Club will be holding a regatta party 5<sup>th</sup> of July at the Salt House, all are welcome to attend.</p> <p>JR – We are in talks with the Bridport and West Dorset Golf Club, who are putting in a planning application for a storage yard along Station Road to rent to us, we will use this area to store abandoned vessels. One vessel that received a 28-day notice has gone.</p>	

<p>AT – Gave thanks to the Harbour staff for their efficiency of the barrier instillation. It seems to be running smoothly. Vehicles aren't coming and going on the Harbour side which relieves tension as everyone is protected.</p> <p>SM – Questions are being asked re anti-social driving around the bay?</p> <p>BH – There is ANPR cameras around that can be used to find them and prosecute.</p> <p>JR – If you see it report it.</p> <p>AB – Please report to 101 or email in any evidence. It would be good to gather information, hot spot times and any vehicle details.</p> <p>BH – Articles have been published in the Dorset Echo and Bridport News whereby people have been issued section 59's.</p>	
11. Q&As	
12. Any other business	
<p>AB – Warning, if you are using Cam Secure housing company, please be aware of the scam that pops up on there, its usually related to a 1p payment.</p> <p>EB – Suggested adding car parking fees to the agenda for next HCG meeting.</p> <p><a href="#">Big savings and benefits to be had with permits, including overnight parking - Dorset Council</a></p> <p>Meeting concluded 19:30</p>	