

RIVER DART COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Annual Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 13th January 2010

Present: P Sheardown (Chair), B Hollis, T Hoile, N Brown, I Noble, P Chorley, J Haney, H Meacock, J Baron (DNB Chair), D White, J Holman, M Holman, M Smallwood (Minutes)

ACTION

Apologies D Fry of Blackness Marine.

Minutes of the previous AGM 12 January 2009 These were proposed by N Brown, seconded by M Holman and approved by all.

Matters Arising

P Sheardown stated that following the last AGM, he had taken over the role of Chair from Mike Rowley. A discussion followed on the presentation of a gift to Mike Rowley. It was proposed by I Noble, seconded by P Sheardown and approved by all that a decanter and wine should be purchased @ cost of £50 and Mike Rowley be invited to attend the next meeting to receive the gift. Tony Hoile to source gift.

TH

P Sheardown inquired as to the current status of the cleaning of the Embankment Steps. D White informed the meeting that the steps would not be cleaned until Easter.

It was noted that the Marine Navigation Bill had been dropped.

Chairman's Report for the year 2009

P Sheardown reported on the following:

Earlier in the year he had met with Nick Walbridge, John Baron and Roger Jobson, being the Chairs of the other Stakeholder Groups at the time. A disputes procedure was brought up and conflicting views on Dart Harbour had been aired. LUG had now agreed a new Constitution. Jonathan Weeks, previously a member of RAMROG, had become a member of the NonBen Stakeholder Group for a period of 12 months initially.

Mussel beds located outside the harbour entrance had now been withdrawn.

Terry Connolly replaced Tony Hoile as the Stakeholder Groups Representative on the Dart Harbour Board Selection Panel. An amended statement of the election process for this position in the future has been prepared.

The RDCUG had agreed its ratified Minutes of Meetings could be put onto the Dart Harbour website.

Dart Harbour Young Champions Award had been discussed.

There had been discussion on the Development at Noss and it had been generally agreed the development was good, but not the constriction of harbour traffic in

the vicinity of the development.

As Chair, he had attended the NonBen Meeting at Totnes as an observer.

The CUG had discussed expanding its membership and also the Dart Harbour moorings policy.

This ended his Chairman's report for 2009.

Hon Treasurer's Report for the year 2009

I Noble circulated accounts for the year and reported on the following:

Having taken over as Treasurer, it had taken about 6 months to switch over the paperwork with the bank.

Income had been £345 and Outgoings had been £150. Refreshments and room hire had cost £152.45. The present balance was £579.67, which was slightly up on last year.

He thanked the Dartmouth Yacht Club for providing the meeting room foc.

There being no questions, this ended his Treasurer's report for 2009.

Election of Chairman

No other nominations having been received, Philip Sheardown was proposed as Chair by M Holman, seconded by H Meacock, with all in favour.

Election of Vice Chairman

No other nominations having been received, Tony Hoile was proposed as Vice Chair by I Noble, seconded by B Hollis with all in favour.

Election of Treasurer

No other nominations having been received, Ian Noble was proposed as Treasurer by P Sheardown, seconded by H Meacock with all in favour.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

Chair Date.....

The meeting then moved into the Agenda for the General Meeting.

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Apologies D Fry of Blackness Marine.

Minutes of the previous Meeting Having been proposed by I Noble and seconded by T Hoile, were approved, subject to the following amendment: under Chairman's Report, 5th line to read: "Royal Dart Yacht Club is to reorganise the role of the LUG". The Minutes were then signed by the Chair.

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report

Election of User Group Member to DHNA P Sheardown had made some minor amendments to the protocol previously written by Mike Rowley and would circulate to John Baron and CUG members for approval. He would then report back to the other Stakeholder Groups.

P Sheardown had attended the recent Dart Harbour Board Meeting and had been interested to hear a number of different views relating to the moorings policy review, e.g.

- Locals vs visitors
- Differentials in charging
- Legality of the policy at it stands
- Feasibility of the policy

D White confirmed that no private moorings have been sold since 1975. He also confirmed that the Hoodown improvement plan is going ahead.

It was proposed by T Hoile and seconded by B Hollis with all in favour that Nigel Mortimer, Estuaries Officer for the South Hams, should be invited to talk to CUG members about the ecology of the River Dart. It was noted that seahorses have been found at Noss. D White to give M Smallwood Nigel's email and contact details.

Nigel would be asked to brief the CUG on his priorities and to give his views on his role and the ecology of the Estuary, along with a short list of priorities on what this Group can do to help.

P Sheardown reported that Jan Scott, a Dart Harbour Board Member, had offered to attend a CUG meeting to talk about the Dart Harbour moorings policy and to give an update. A letter of intent from Dart Harbour would be going out soon;

PS

DW

once this was completed, D White would forward it to M Smallwood for circulation to the CUG.

DW

John Baron invited all CUG members to attend the next NonBen Meeting at the Royal Dart Yacht Club on 25th February at 1930.

Treasurer’s Report

I Noble asked if members were happy with the level of subscriptions. It was proposed by J Holman and seconded by B Hollis that the annual subscription charge of £25 remain unchanged. Agreed by all.

I Noble requested that members send their annual subscriptions to him and to advise him if a receipt was required.

ALL

Consultation

Suggestions had been received by members. Before the next meeting in April, members to send T Hoile their suggestions of people who might be interested in becoming members of the CUG.

ALL

AOB

D White reported that he had had a graphic survey done of the River from Castle Ledge Buoy to the Checkstone. This had shown no reduction in the navigation channel and some of the lumps on the chart had actually reduced. There will be a further survey done this year from the Anchorstone to Totnes.

D White reported that the Baltic Wharf Development Plan had been turned down today by Devon CC, by 11 votes to 5.

P Chorley asked D White what would be the likely effects on River Dart users from the Marine Bill. D White replied it was hard to say at this stage, although marine conservation zones will be looked at and dredging will become more restricted, with scallop dredging probably ceasing.

J Holman asked if the CUG had any thoughts it wished to put forward as a group to “Finding Sanctuary”. P Chorley stated there was a steering group with an RYA representative on it. All the interest groups could be located on the website.

T Hoile requested that “Environmental Issues” be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 12th April at 1900 at DYC.

Chairman Date