

RIVER DART COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Annual Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 23 January 2012

Present: P Sheardown (Chair), B Hollis, T Hoile, P Chorley, I Noble, J Holman, M Holman, S Kilpatrick, J Harvey, S Norvill, D Ridalls, J Mathys, P Smith, T Morris, N Brown, M Smallwood (Minutes)

Apologies Becky Taylor, Rob Giles (Harbourmaster), Helen Meacock, Noss Marina.

Minutes of the previous AGM 20 January 2011 These were proposed by M Holman, seconded by N Brown and approved by all.

Matters Arising

None.

Chairman's Report for the year 2011

Phil Sheardown reported as follows:

January

Friends of Dart Harbour (DH) established – as a talent pool or skills matrix ready to voluntarily assist DH when called on with expert advice, skills or opinion.

DH gave notice it will be drawing up a fresh 10 year plan and seeking opinion and ideas from all concerned towards it. Plymouth University has been engaged as an impartial enabler for the project. A similar procedure was adopted for the previous 10 year plan which led, among other items, to the increase of cruise ship visits.

Marine Conservation Zoning (MCZ) appeared in the offing – well shrouded in conflicting views.

Plans to develop the western Higher Ferry slip were in hand. The Lower Ferry slips were both noted as in need of refurbishment.

February

The *Yarmouth Navigator* departed the harbour, only to sink in Plymouth Cattewater with the unfortunate loss of her owner.

MCZs hove closer. Opinion divided strongly between benefits and the opposite.

A hydroelectric scheme associated with Kevic's School and the use of an Archimedes Screw at Totnes weir commenced.

April

DH set its face against any in-harbour MCZ, already having in place adequate and developing environmental protocols. Additionally there was lack of coherent information on the exact nature and consequences of an in-harbour MCZ.

It was reported that Lundy Island experienced an astonishing rate of grow-back on the establishment of its MCZ, and, reportedly, Bristol Channel fishers working close to that MCZ 'had never had it so good'.

There were two in-harbour commercial boating start-ups on which the Group noted safety concerns. Harbour Master oversaw developments regarding these.

September

A sailing ferry working DH to St Malo was proposed. The Group was supportive of the concept – subject to further detail appearing.

MCZ for the Dart proposed 'above the Anchorstone'.

South Hams Estuaries Officer Nigel Mortimer reported he had acquired funding for hydrophones, aquascopes, buoyant binoculars, phytoplankton and zooplankton nets and micro-

viewers, and bat detectors, as educational tools for interested parties in the river environment. Chairman attended inaugural DH Port Security Committee. Present were Harbour Master and Assistant Harbour Master, plus representatives from Dart Rivercraft, Greenway Ferry, Paignton Pleasure Cruisers, Marine Coastguard Agency, Dartmouth Police, and Special Branch. Security issues range from Project Kraken (likened to a Neighbourhood Watch for boaters), through incident control such as an oil spill, to Counter Terrorism measures. A report appeared in this Group's minutes.

December

The Chairmen of the Association of Dart River User Clubs and the River Dart Non-Beneficiaries, and this Chairman met to discuss the protocol for selecting a single member representative from among the three Groups, to sit on the DH Board Member Selection Panel. A report appears in this Group's minutes.

Hon Treasurer's Report for the year 2011

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

Income via subs for 2011	£325.00
Outgoings for 2011	£449.20 (secretarial and refreshments)

Bank balance as of 25 December 2011 was £689.13. Income from membership continues to diminish and he listed the members who had not renewed, but the bank balance remains healthy.

There being no questions, this ended his Treasurer's report for 2011.

Election of Chairman

Philip Sheardown was retiring as Chairman, having served three years. John Holman was proposed as Chair by Philip Sheardown, seconded by Ian Noble and elected with all in favour.

Election of Vice Chairman

Tony Hoile was standing down as Vice Chairman. Philip Sheardown was proposed as Vice Chair by John Holman, seconded by Tony Hoile and elected with all in favour.

Election of Treasurer

Ian Noble was standing down as Treasurer. Barry Hollis was proposed as Treasurer by Ian Noble, seconded by Philip Sheardown and elected 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.