

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 13 October 2014

Present: J Holman (Chair), S Kilpatrick, J A Scott (DHNA Board Member), N Hockaday DHNA Chairman), J Distin, I Noble, R Giles (Harbourmaster), B Hollis, J Robinson, A Pooley, N Brown, M Smallwood (Minutes)

Apologies S Norvill, D Distin, T Distin, A Hoile, L Fleming, P Sheardown,

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 May 2014 The Minutes were proposed by Ian Noble, seconded by Barry Hollis and approved by all.

Matters Arising

- Pump out facility – a pump out station on Kingswear Pontoon by Darthaven Marina may be installed by Spring 2015

Chairman's Report – John Holman

- A fantastic summer, although visitor numbers had not been quite as good as hoped. The service side of the industry has done well as people have used their boats due to the good weather – an improvement on the last two years
- Dart Marina and Noss have had a good summer and Salcombe has had a good year with a lot of rallies. Plymouth Marinas reported a great year.
- Dartmouth Regatta had gone very well (in spite of bad weather for two days), with an ideal number of boats from Darthaven Marina's point of view. Next year the Bank Holiday Monday will be after Regatta Week which may improve business further
- Torbay Week is not going to exist next year; they only had 25-30 boats entering this year and so are giving the days back to the local clubs
- J Boats wish to bring J70 class to race at Dartmouth Regatta next year
- Feedback from Southampton Boat Show was that footfall was a little up and there was some good interest in boats from the visitors, but overall the Show was not as good as everyone had hoped. Fairline had sold 1 boat, Sealine sold 3 or 4; Clipper Boats sold 19 Bavarian Motorboats. No sale records given by Princess or Sunseeker Boats
- Dartmouth Business Forum would like a commercial user representative to sit on the Forum if any DHCUG member was interested in joining.
- The BID website is up and running with a new Chairman, Nigel Way. It has a new campaign "Dartmouth Every Time" which appears to be going very well, with posters up at lots of railway stations. Rob confirmed that Dart Harbour has links with BID and is developing the cruise market in conjunction with them. Concern was expressed that SHDC is considering reducing the Dartmouth Park and Ride and public toilet opening hours to save money. It was noted that tourism has been declining by 2% p.a. in the SW area, however Dartmouth is now picking up and car parking was therefore vital to the future of the town
- Julian mentioned the importance of remaining focussed on the local marketing of Dartmouth. He pointed out that other TICs have put up their advertising charges, however Dartmouth TIC has not.
- Swimmers have been using the river by the Passenger Ferry, Kingswear side. Good observation and informing the harbourmaster was recommended. Signage will be going up and information put onto the Dart Harbour website to try and minimise risk
- Harbourmaster confirmed the Dart Harbour Wifi spot was working well and would be

marketed more forcefully. BID might be interested in linking in **Action Harbourmaster speak to them**

- Harbourmaster confirmed Dart Harbour has a Dartmouth Cruise Group which is working with Dartmouth Town Council and BID team. Tricia Daniels is giving all her time for free and working very hard with Dart Harbour to encourage more cruise liner visits
- Some crimes over the summer on the Kingswear side, relating to outboards in Waterhead Creek. Members to coordinate and also inform Harbourmaster if a crime is seen or experienced
- Jeremy suggested Dart Harbour use experienced patrol personnel to work alongside new personnel so they can pass on their knowledge of the area rather than a completely new team running an area they do not know
- Julian reported that it was felt speeding had increased on the river and DH patrols are much less visible than they used to be. John suggested a rapid response river patrol boat could be set up to apprehend speeding boats
- Pilots Pension Fund – this was still ongoing however the Harbourmaster was hoping to have a meeting soon with the Trustee to finalise some issues that needed to be resolved
- The Harbourmaster confirmed that he would be meeting the Council in November to discuss dredging near the South Embankment Quay and when electricity would be available on the scrubbing grid
- Chris Gregory would be taking over from Roger Halliday as the Duchy of Cornwall Representative for the River. Harbourmaster would be meeting with him shortly. The Lease does not expire until 2031.

Updates from River-based Commercial Businesses

- Noss: a good summer and people delaying lifting out their boats
- Anchorage: a good summer, but Boat Show was not as good
- Noss Marine Sales: a very good summer and had run out of boats to sell
- Dart Marina: a very good year and had sold all their boats
- Dartsides Quay: a great year and winter bookings were exceptional
- Brixham Marina; very good and basically full
- Baltic Wharf: good year; still negotiating with regard to the number of boats for the new development
- Fuel Barge: last 15 months had been much better and they were happy with this
- Blackness Marine: a bumper year and their new shed would be ready by Xmas
- Dartmouth Steam Railway: a good year for Dartmouth business; Torbay was down but had an excellent September
- Greenway Ferry: a good year, although Torbay business also down

Berthing of Boats on the Kingswear pick up point

Ian Noble asked for clarification as to who owned the pontoon. John confirmed it belonged to Darthaven Marina but Dart Harbour had full control of it. Ian was concerned that boats were berthing there for a considerable length of time and not loading or unloading, thus making it very difficult for him and others to moor their boats to let passengers on and off. One boat, in particular, had been there for some time, although it had now left. The Harbourmaster confirmed that the berth was now clear and Dart Harbour would try and make it as easy as possible for commercial boats loading and unloading. Staff will be asked to chase up any berthing issues

Hon Treasurer's Report – Barry Hollis Barry confirmed that there was £776.00 in the bank account. He urged members to encourage more commercial users to join

NB Those who have not yet paid their annual membership fee, please send payment of £25 to Barry Hollis at Rigging Solutions Ltd, 26 Foss Street, Dartmouth TQ6 9DR

Harbour Update – Rob Giles

- Surveying of the River was continuing
- He was drawing up a package of areas to be dredged. There had been a massive shift of silt in the Totnes area which needed dredging and also around Dartmouth Town Jetty. A formal dredging disposal site to be located and a consultant employed to advise
- Inspections of navigation lights and beacons this year had gone very well
- Buoys need to be re-numbered. No. 1 should become Castle Ledge and others also need to be changed
- Safety Management System. An internal audit would be taking place on 12 November by Simon Ellyatt.
- There had been three safety issues this summer: a car had gone off the side of the ferry ramp; a vessel keeled over on the scrubbing grid (signs will now be erected telling people to contact DH staff before using the grid) and a minor collision between a fishing vessel and a vessel at anchorage
- Jeremy reported that during the hire of his rib by visitors trying to retrieve items from their landrover that had gone over a cliff he had cut his leg and had been told that “all injuries go to Sandquay” by a PDRR representative. As his injury was nothing to do with Dartmouth Regatta, this was not correct. **Action Rob to raise this with the PDRRC**
- Forward Vision Public Consultation. Over 600 responses online responses had been received and the data was now being compiled by the University of Plymouth. This will be presented at the public meeting in December and will be implemented by Dart Harbour. The questionnaire to be forwarded to all RDCUG members **Action Rob**
- Consultation on a new moorings policy for 2016-2020 will start next year
- The Non-Beneficiaries Stakeholder Group was still not running, but it was hoped this would change soon
- Over the coming winter, £500K would be invested in the Harbour infrastructure
- A wider lifting bridge at Dittisham will be installed this winter. Jeremy pointed out that bulging planks are still a problem **Action Rob**
- Dart Harbour have applied to the DoT for permission to provide harbour directions
- More rallies are being encouraged
- Dartmouth Rowing Club have been managing all their events extremely well and no incidents in the river have been seen

AOB

- Brixham Coastguard is closing this month and the building will be used for other purposes NCI at Froward Point now operates a VHF channel
- Darthaven Marina now had a defibrillator by the berthing office
- Dart Harbour would also be installing defibrillators

The next meeting, which will include the Annual General Meeting, will be held on Monday 26th January 2015 at 7.00pm at DYC.

Chair

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