

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 15th May 2017

Present: John Holman (Chair), Melanie Holman, Jeremy Robinson (Treasurer), Ben Morris, Scott Harris, Mark Cooper (Harbour Master), Zoe Briant-Evans(DH Board), David White(DH Board), Charley Horton, Andrew Pooley, Julian Distin, Dave Distin, Stephen Norvill, P Stenner, Nik Green, Norman Brown, Stephen Kilpatrick, Les English, Peter Stenner, Tom Morris, Lee Freeman and Mark Strudwick.

1. Apologies Becky Fry, Beshlie Pool, Simon Rendle, Graham Bush, Helen Meacock and Andy Osman.

2. Introduction from JH - Chairman

Chairman welcomed all those present and stated that he was grateful for such a good attendance again. He stated that he was sorry to hear that Ian Gibson, the Chairman of DH, was having to take some time out as his wife was most unwell. The DHCUG would like to send our good wishes at this difficult time.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 23rd January 2017

These were proposed by Jeremy Robinson, seconded by Nik Green and approved by all.

4. Matters Arising

Chairman's Comments;

Noss on Dart has delayed the work on the access bridge – now to be closed in the Autumn.

London Boat Show 2018 has been reduced this next year to 5 days instead of 10. It will run between 10th and 14th January. There will be a Holiday/Watersports event next door.

Bad weather delayed the Disaster Exercise - it will now take place in the Autumn.

Moorings Policy is now in place – there are still some changes to wording - pending in order to clarify a few issues. This applies particularly to Moorings linked to businesses. Harbour Master to action

5. Chairman's Report

2017 had started well, generally. There have been comments from boat brokers implying that they do have some boats on their books but not many 'good' ones.

Figures from the river are better than last year but waiting lists have dropped but mostly for mud moorings. HM to investigate latest figures.

The service sector has had a good start.

The late Easter and good weather has helped the Railway company and various local businesses.

At the recently attended British Marine Marina Conference in Southampton, the mood was positive and yards busy.

There was discussion of the new business rate valuations – the appeal system is not likely to help with short-term issues as it could take 2/3 years for resolution!

There are to be MCA inspections in the river. Comments from Simon Ellyatt have indicated that the new Safety Policy is now robust.

The Pilots' Pension Policy has now been successfully sorted.

The first cruise ship has been in the river and there will be more to come – details on the website.

Regular newsletters from DH have been very good.

The lock gates on the Boat Float have been mended.

The crab fishermen have had a slow start but the whale in the area has brought in added interest. There are plenty of shoals of fish about – unusually some anchovies.

6. Hon Treasurer's Report for the year 2016

Jeremy Robinson confirmed that the Bank Balance is £1220.00. Some membership fees are still due.

7, 8 & 9. Harbour Master's Report.

Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) – HM outlined the work for DHNA to prepare for their MCA health check in April and the connection between the responsibility of DHNA and the safety of other river users including clubs and commercial users. Responses to the simple questionnaire have been slow and HM requested that members complete the details and return their questionnaires to the Harbour Office. DHNA staff and the HM were available to provide any assistance or advice if required. The questions were as follows.

Questionnaire

Do you have a Safety Management System and is it revised periodically?

Is your Safety Management System reviewed by an external authority (MCA/RYA or other)?

Do you have Risk Assessments for all of your activities?

Do you have inspections by any other bodies who regulate the activities you conduct?

Incident Reporting – HM described some success with the revised incident report form that mirrored the simple forms used by others on the river including some commercial users. He asked for CUG help in advertising the use of the forms as they were very easy to complete. There is benefit in sharing lessons identified and best practice from incidents and near misses and HM asked for any incidents to be reported to the office (these could be anonymous if required). The simple form is at the link below.

http://dartharbour.org/images/uploads/documents/DHNA_Incident_-_Occurrence_report_form_V3.docx

SHDC and DHNA relationship – HM outlined the discussion that is ongoing with SHDC to determine the appropriate level of payment from DHNA to SHDC for the use of council infrastructure and said that payments would be conditional upon SHDC fulfilling their responsibility for maintenance of the marine related facilities such as jet washing steps and slip ways and the upkeep of the town quay and berthing connections. This is likely to lead to nominal charges for some users whose moorings connect directly to the quay and it would be important for the CUG to advise DHNA of any maintenance issues that they believe are the responsibility of SHDC so that these could be included in the arrangement's and linked to DHNA payments.

Premier Marina Development – HM described the background to the discussion between Premier and DHNA that had begun before the HM joined and had been conducted by the previous chairman, Richard Ayres and David White. Draft conditions have now been drawn up to highlight to Premier the potential for their development to include many of the improvements outlined in the DHNA strategic plan as a result of stakeholder involvement including CUG input. One of the conditions, which would not affect the statutory consultee rights of the Authority were for berthing of a Premier ferry from Noss in the center of the town and in return Premier had offered 100k for improvement of infrastructure in the next three years. HM described this as an opportunity but also stated that there was always the option to return (or not draw the funds) if stakeholders did not feel that further infrastructure development was appropriate. HM asked that the CUG should review the potential development options that had been drawn up along with the criteria for assessing the options and that anyone could provide DHNA with additional options or criteria and asked that these be provided direct to the Harbour Office in the next three weeks. Members of the CUG agreed that the options should have stakeholder input, that this could be an opportunity for their members and that improvements could enhance safety by improving access to the river for the less able and disabled people.

AOB

1. Coronation Park Development – IN AOB HM mentioned that there had been discussion between SHDC, the town council, DHNA and other interested parties from the town about potential development of the area off Coronation Park. HM offered to keep the CUG informed of any development.

2. Dredging – HM also outlined the plan to survey 100% of the river this year ahead of the Premier Development with financial support from Premier and thanked other commercial users who had offered their financial support.

3. Actions – DHNA(HM) took an action to investigate the availability of high volume expanding foam for fire-fighting on the river as a result of lessons identified. Lessons had indicated that the sinking of a vessel on fire along with a subsequent significant environmental event might be avoided by provision of foam rather than AFFF.

4. Piling task carried out opposite Sand Quay was completed for this year – further work to be carried out next Winter. Andrew Pooley.

5. Red Trouser Day. Charlie Horton wished to draw attention to this event in Dartmouth on 24th June. This is designed to promote Dartmouth as a fun destination.

6. There was a brief discussion about the ‘Working Quay’ area on the South Embankment. JD hoped that it would remain an open area for visitors to watch fish/crabs being landed.

7. The Chairman wished to thank the Harbour Master for leading the river community into a new era of ‘openness’. Thanks also to Zoe and David for their interest and attendance. In the absence of Ian Gibson the Vice-Chairman, Mark Hubbard, will be leading the Board Meetings.

8. Date of next Meeting Monday September 25th at DYC 19.00

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 21.00

Chair Date.....