

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS' GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on January 23rd 2017

Present; John Holman (Chair) and other members and guests that were in attendance for the AGM held earlier. This meeting commenced at 19.30.

1. **Apologies;** as for AGM
2. **Minutes of previous Meeting** held on 23rd September 2016. These were declared a true account – proposed by Jeremy Robinson and seconded by Norman Brown.
3. **Matters Arising;** None
4. **Chairman's Report** Comments for 2017 so far;

1. News from the London Boat Show has not been so good – not helped by the train strikes etc and doubts following Brexit. In December the Marine Industries' confidence level was reported at +10% having been -7% in July. The big manufacturers Princess and Sunseeker have good order books and are recruiting staff. Hopefully this will be good for Dartmouth with more 'staycationers' and foreign visitors.

2. The general view from the marine-related businesses on the river was that the Autumn was good for both trade and weather. We all look forward to this year with a certain amount of confidence.

3. Zoe Briant-Evans (recently appointed to DH Board) has been asked by the Board to be the DHCUG's point of contact. She has also been given a role of overseeing the H&S on the river.

The MAIB has recommended/been invited by DH to undertake a Port Safety Code Health check for Dartmouth in 2017. After the report on the St Christophe incident the CUG will be glad to hear this.

Members have mentioned 2 safety items to bring to the Board's Attention

Speeding small boats and jet skis

Diesel spillage for the college.

4. Premier Marina Noss Development plans are now with the various planning authorities after consultations with the local communities. The CUG did consult with DH over the pontoon layout. Info; the access bridge will be closed to vehicles for some time during the next few months with only pedestrian access from the upper car parks.

5. There will be a 'disaster exercise' happening on Friday February 3rd about the river. This will involve all the rescue services etc.

6. Many thanks to all the staff at Dart Harbour for all they have done to keep the river running this Autumn until the new Harbour Master was able to 'take up the reins'.

7. There will be no Try-a-Boat this Year and there is likely to be a consultation about the H&S aspects of Air Displays which might prove interesting.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – nothing further to add.

6. The **Harbour Master**, Mark Cooper, gave the group a short history into his background/various occupations before taking up the role here in the Dart.

The new **Chairman of the DH Board**.

Ian Gibson gave the group some history as to how the 3 Stakeholder Groups were formed. Some 10-15 years ago it was decided that the structure of the Board needed to be changed to become more

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representative of the businesses and river users – the number of Board members was reduced (halved) and new members needed to show/hold the best interest of the harbour in their applications. These Stakeholder groups do have an important relevance and influence towards decisions made by DH. It is to be expected that there will be a need for 3 months now for the new HM and DH Board to settle. There needs to be a focus on the basics before moving forward with progress – nothing wrong fundamentally but some things need to be revisited.

It is to be arranged that there will be more time for public involvement in DH Meetings, if necessary. There should be opportunity for policies to be 'aired'. Meetings will alternate between 14.00 and 19.00 and be held at different venues.

Zoe Briant-Evans introduced herself and gave the group some history of her experiences in the RN before having her family. She is very enthusiastic about her role liaising with the DHCUG and her involvement with the H&S of the river. It will need a regular report to the MCA.

7. Moorings' Policy - Julian Distin

The process of renewing the Policy has been ongoing for over a year. The DHCUG has held extra meetings (open to all) during this time.

Various comments have been sent to the Board both in support of and towards clarification of those aspects of the Policy which are important to CUG Members. Given that Dart Harbour is both the regulator and also a major moorings provider in its own right, we believe that the Authority must be seen to manage the conflicts that can arise over moorings with integrity. A constructive and detailed dialogue has taken place as part of the consultative process and, looking forwards, it is hoped that there will be a greater willingness to make progress towards sensible outcomes. In the recent past there has too often been considerable conflict and little room for meaningful discussion.

The new Moorings' Policy is in two parts. The main policy statement is only 14 pages long and CUG Members are urged to read this section in full in preparation for our next Meeting. Sections 5.12, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 & 6.4 are of particular relevance.

The remaining 35 pages contain info on categories of moorings, Terms and Conditions and suchlike. Members are encouraged to pay particular attention to those sections - Commercial Private Tackle Mooring Licence Conditions, for example - that are going to affect them directly.

Many thanks to Jan Scott (who has now stepped down from the Dart Harbour Board) and Ian Gibson both for their considerable input on the Policy and for their openness and patience in dealing with our feedback. The Policy has now been adopted but any outstanding Moorings' Policy issues or matters of continuing concern should be raised under 'Matters Arising' at the next CUG Meeting.

8. A.O.B

1. **Adrian Bevan** is the Section Head for SDC at the Noss Marina Academy. He was able to give the Group some idea of how the college has expanded in recent years. What began with the course in Marine Engineering has now grown to many other marine related course pathways being offered to apprentices etc. It is hoped that some of the Stakeholder Groups will make use of these opportunities. SDC is to join the DHCUG.

2. **SHDC** Advance warning that improvement/maintenance work will be being carried out at the Boat Float in Dartmouth involving a barge and that some pontoons might need moving.

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3. **Noss pontoons** The extent of the moorings has apparently been finalised according to **Norman Brown**. The environmental reports have been sent but **Mark Strudwick** expressed his concern over a lack of a suitable model which would indicate how the new structures would most likely lead to adverse silting further down the river.

4. Request by the Group for improved management of the DH website which should be updated more frequently and items archived when necessary.

9. **Date for next Meeting** MONDAY 15th May 2017 at DYC 19.00 Meeting closed at 20.45

Chair..... Date.....