

RIVER DART COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 23rd April 2012

Present: J Holman (Chair), B Hollis, T Hoile, P Chorley, M Holman, A Pooley, S Oakey, J Robinson, S Kilpatrick, G Savage, S Norvill, J Mathys, L Fraenkie, B Taylor, M Fry, P Sheardown, J Scott (Board Member, DHNA), M Sharman, P Smith, M Smallwood (Minutes)

Apologies R Giles (Harbourmaster), J Harvey, O Mallia, D Ridalls

Minutes of the previous meeting There were approved and signed.

Matters Arising none.

Chairman's Report

John Holman reported on the following:

He had attended the official opening of Dart Harbour's Hoodown Development and their slab and lifting equipment facility and hoped that Jan would provide more information on its costings during this evening's meeting.

5 years ago Ray Humphreys had completed the Dart Estuary Environmental Management Plan. Ambios, at short notice, was now running a new survey until the end of the month asking how the river should go forward in the next five years. John wondered why this review was being run concurrently with the research by Plymouth University's Centre for Marine and Coastal Research, commissioned by Dart Harbour.

Steve Fletcher explained the DEEM Plan was being run by a partnership of different organisations, including Dart Harbour. This was a holistic management plan for the Estuary. The two projects were related, but are different. His team was doing research solely for Dart Harbour to support the Stakeholder Groups within the Dart Estuary.

The Harbourmaster was looking into Totnes Kayaks and Bike Hire, based at Baltic Wharf, as it was understood they did not, as yet, have a boat licence.

The three Stakeholder Group Chairmen had agreed recently that Mike Bennett, of the Non Bens Group, should become the Stakeholder Group Representative on the Membership Selection Panel.

Approval of the Modified Dart Harbour Membership Selection Panel Protocol could not yet be finalised as further modification on one section had been requested today by the Non Bens Group. Suggested new wording from the CUG would be sent to the two other Chairmen for their comments.

He had attended a South Devon Marine Meeting with Sarah Wollaston, MP. She had asked river users to contact her if they had any issues that needed representing to Parliament. She is very keen to support all the industries in her

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area and can be approached by email, letter or via her surgeries.

Jan Scott joined the meeting.

The J80 Worlds were being held in Dartmouth in June, much of it based at BRNC. Eight different countries were taking part with 5 days of very competitive racing, with approx 80 boats taking part. The Harbour Authority had come up trumps with regard to the hoisting in and out of the yachts.

The Duchy would be coming to the RDCUG meeting in September to talk about where the money they collect from the River users goes.

Treasurer's Report

Barry Hollis reported that 22 members were on the books with 13 having paid their annual dues. He hoped all members would encourage more businesses to join.

Harbourmaster's Report

In the absence of the Harbourmaster, Jan Scott reported on the Hoodown Development. Development Costs were £870K, about £120K above the expected cost. An old war time pit with asbestos had had to be dug out and sorted which had contributed to part of the additional costs, as had the new piling work.

Although a lot of money had been spent, the Authority still had reserves and it was already proving extremely useful and improvement works to the Stoke Gabriel pontoons had started. Over 270 pontoons were under Dart Harbour's control and a rolling maintenance programme was being put in place.

Dart Harbour Safety Management System

This system had been reviewed by Simon Ellyatt on behalf of Dart Harbour. The Authority had come out pretty well and various aspects raised were being dealt with. The System would be reviewed again in September by Simon.

AOB None.

Date of next Meeting: 24th September 2012 at Dartmouth Yacht Club.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 1908 and was followed by a Presentation, commissioned by Dart Harbour, on the Future Vision of the Dart Estuary – by Laura A. Friedrich and Steve Fletcher of Plymouth University's Centre for Marine and Coastal Policy Research. Members wishing to contact Laura Friedrich can do so via laura.friedrich@plymouth.ac.uk

Chairman Date

