

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 26th September 2016

Present: John Holman (Chair), Melanie Holman, Andrew Pooley, Jeremy Robinson (Treasurer), Ben Morris, Scott Harris, Anthony Hoile, David Distin, Julian Distin, Owen Hill, Barry Hollis, Simon Rendle, Stephen Norvill, Nik Green, Robert Green, Norman Brown, Steve Kilpatrick, Perry Smith, James Smith, Phil Sheardown, Lee Freeman, Graham Bush, Neil Hockaday, Nick Clarence, Julian Carnell, Dave Ridalls, Helen Meacock and Mark Strudwick,

1. Apologies received from; Becky Taylor, Andy Osman, Shaw Smith, Beshlie, Hugh Clifford

2. Introduction from the Chairman JH

The Chairman welcomed all those present. A special mention - Peter Stenner from TMS and Julian Carnell from Sharpam Estates.

Chairman's Report for the summer season 2016 – this year likely to prove to be important for the river and its users.

a. Following the resignation of Rob Giles, it has been shown that it is good for the DHCUG and other stakeholder groups to have a close working relationship with the Dart Harbour Board. Our comments made to the Board after our last meeting were helpful to them.

Leading on from this, it proved to be a very good idea for the stakeholder groups to be involved in the selection process for a new HM.

A letter has been received from the Board thanking the various participants for their time and trouble, especially Julian Distin. I believe that the Board has made a correct decision – yet to be announced.

b. Premier Marinas has confirmed their purchase of Noss Marina. Andy Osman was hoping to be present but was unavoidably detained at another meeting. Their plan is to have a 250 boat marina in place by the Spring of 2018 followed by a hotel, some housing and classrooms for SD College. There will be a 75ton hoist, Bistro and ferry – hoping to be their 'flagship' marina.

c. There was a very much reduced Air Display programme following the impractical restrictions. These are unlikely to be lifted in the future. There have been mixed reports from the town's shops.

There were fewer sailing boats/rowing boats participating and this seems to be the case for other regattas too. At Darthaven the numbers dropped from 95 to 75 but the Car Park was still very full!

d. Comments from various businesses;

Railway - A slow start to the season but it picked up in July/August with the weather.

Greenway – A steady year

Blackness – Going from strength to strength and increasing engineering work

Dart Marina – reasonable number of visitors

Brixham – Shaw not present but info; 95% full and visitor numbers ok

Noss – visitor numbers up and looking good for Winter berthing

Southampton Boat Show – Clipper and Ancasta selling motor boats... Show quiet – good European market

South Devon College – various marine based courses including one for 'marina operatives'.

3. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 23rd May 2016

These were confidential in nature and JH hoped that members were ok with what was sent to the DH Board.

4. Matters Arising

Ruth Horan decided not to take on the role as secretary of the DHCUG so MH is continuing to do this for

the moment.

5. Financial Report – Treasurer Jeremy Robinson

Please pay dues if not done so already!

6. Deputy Harbour Master – Nick Clarence

NC stressed the importance of ‘looking forward’ following some difficult meetings earlier in this year.

A new relationship needs to be built up and he wants to operate an ‘open door’ policy.

The river had a busy Summer though visitor numbers were down – the same as all along the South Coast.

The weather proved to be ok and Regatta was successful as it was quieter and more controllable. There were no recordable incidents.

Moorings allocation has begun – temporary moorings will be the same as usual.

There is a new Electronic Safety Management System but this should not affect any businesses.

The Board is to be Audited externally and the result more transparent – a more robust system. This will include incident reporting.

The Wild Swim went very well!

Chairman of Dart Harbour – Neil Hockaday

The Board was very appreciative of the DHCUG input during the year. The new HM has been selected.

The Annual Dart Harbour Meeting is in the Flavel on Monday 7th December 2016 at 7pm.

The incident of the St Christophe is described in a confidential report and contains only facts. The MAIB will be reporting soon.

All this should lead to improved safety on the river.

Noss; A professional approach to the navigational issues is expected. DHCUG can make their concerns known to the DH Board. After October there will be a meeting with premier to bring the plans together.

There will be progress made on the marina side of things first.

7. A vote was taken and the members agreed to MH being the RCUG rep on the Selection Panel for DH Board Members. Other stakeholder groups to be approached to get their opinions/suggestions.

8. Report from the Consultation Meeting at Noss – Julian Distin

Julian was pleased that the site will have marina based businesses. There are technical issues to be sorted out (pontoons etc) but NH reported that the previous owners had a layout which was much the same.

Buoyage will be put out to show the ‘footprint’.

9. This Selection Process for the new HM went well and was a difficult process well shared and well organised by Ian Gibson. There were good interactions between stakeholder reps and the candidates.

10. Moorings’ Policy

A separate meeting needed to which all are invited.

A main issue is that there should be retention of moorings by businesses (that could be bought and sold).

Originally this was needed before July but there was now a delay.

The draft policy needs to be published.

11. A.O.B

a. Julian Carnell Sharpham Trust

The Bathing House is being restored. There will be rebuilding work – stone dam has been eroded – there will be a slight raising in its height.

South Quay is also being restored. It is Listed and will be the same height as the previous quays.

North Quay has better access

‘Hole in the Wall’ surveys have shown there is no danger of immediate widening. Too much erosion would result in affecting the navigation in the river. (NH)

b. Dredging Policy

What has been done has filled up again.
Place for spoils? MMO very tight on this
Surveys are done regularly.

c. Andrew Pooley

Reinforcement will be happening on the bridge at Noss. A survey is taking place above the Higher Ferry.

Many thanks for attending this meeting (JH)

Meeting Closed at 20.20

Next Meeting plus AGM MONDAY 23rd January 2017 19.00 IN DYC

Chair Date.....