

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 4 March 2013

Present: J Holman (Chair), M Holman, J Robinson, K Marshall, N Brown, T Morris, C Lambert, S Norvill, D Ridalls, I Noble, L Fleming, M Strudwick, D Distin, J Distin, R Giles (Harbourmaster) P Sheardown, B Hollis, J Scott (Dart Harbour Board), P Smith, S Kilpatrick

ACTION

1. Apologies B Taylor, A Harbord, G Cotton, A Pooley, J Harvey, J Smith and G Morgan

2. Minutes of the previous meeting These were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising None.

4. Chairman's Report

- Lower Ferry Slipway Repairs. It was critical these should be completed by Easter. Harbourmaster would inquire via SHDC and advise John who would inform CUG members and, if necessary, write to SHDC.
- Higher Ferry Slipway Development has been shelved for the time being by SHDC due to lack of funds. Rob Giles would be meeting with SHDC vis a vis the safety of the existing slipway. It was noted the RNLI Inshore Lifeboat could not launch from the slipway at present. It was agreed by all that John should send a letter from the DHCUG stressing the safety aspect and the importance of this slipway being developed.
- Lower Ferry crews had scrubbed the steps from Dartmouth Embankment down to the river.
- He had attended the London Boat Show and had noted it was a somewhat flat event with no major signs of development in the marine leisure industry. However new sailing boats were selling quite well.
- It was understood a share of Noss Marina was up for offer and that the housing side was moving forward. Baltic Wharf Development was also progressing.
- Neil Millward is the new Chairman of ADRUC.
- Kingswear pontoons 90 extra metres of length had been gained for berthholders which meant the pontoons could be used to a better capacity and was good news for those on the waiting list. There had been a problem with a couple of berthholders who had not wished to be moved.
- The suggestion was raised of empty moorings being let out, with payment to both Dart Harbour and the mooring holder. This was noted by Rob Giles who would look into this for the future when resources were available; long term re-lets may be possible.
- There was no information on whether the Dart River Users Group was still in existence.
- A Port Security Exercise had taken place recently in conjunction with Dart Harbour, the Dept of Transport, stakeholder groups, etc. Rob stressed that it was important any incidents on the river were reported to the right authority.
- 15 large ship visits had already been booked for this year. DHCUG members could link in with the agents of the cruise ships regarding shore

RG/JH

JH

excursions. If interested, members should contact the Harbourmaster.

- A Destination South West CD has been issued recently and this will be made available by Rob Giles as required.
- Kingswear Castle Steamboat will commence operating on 24 March and healthy competition amongst the ferries will continue this year
- Fuel barge is due back in the river on 10 March

5. Treasurer's Report

Barry Hollis was pleased to report that subscriptions were coming in steadily.

6. Discussion on future of South Devon Marine Group

It was agreed that individual members of this group who have an interest in the DHCUG would be welcome to join. Barry Hollis to advise the Group.

BH

7. Harbourmaster's Report

Rob Giles reported that:

- The Dart Harbour team had worked very hard this winter and the re-piling of two pontoons had been carried out
- The Hoodown Workshop was working extremely well and the servicing of 92% of the moorings had taken place over the winter. Ten low water pontoons were currently being refurbished
- The Dartmouth Dinghy Rack Pontoon would shortly be moved to its new position
- Forward Vision Project has 9 subject areas and these will be discussed at private and public consultation meetings in the coming months
- Dart Harbour were re-negotiating with SHDC regarding the management and administration of the North and South Banks of Dartmouth
- Twice the number of "give ups" had been experienced from leisure boat owners than last year and it was felt this trend was likely to continue
- Dart Harbour staff speeding on the river had been noted by the Harbourmaster.
- Speed patrols were working well.
- Illegal netting and lack of lighting at night were being looked into.
- The Harbourmaster would continue to work on improving the service of the out of hours 'phone. It must be noted, however, that Dart Harbour is not an emergency service.
- Individual berthholders with issues are being dealt with very carefully, without any heavy-handedness.
- A press release had been sent out with regard to an unsuccessful attempt to gain central government funding for a 90 metre pontoon on the river. A full public consultation would have taken place if Dart Harbour's bid had been successful. For any future funding exercises the public will be fully consulted, where possible.
- In reply to a question, the Harbourmaster confirmed that, to his knowledge, there was no change to the Dart Harbour policy on commercial private moorings
- He confirmed he would look into the buckling problem previously reported on Dittisham public pontoon.

RG

8. AOB

- John Holman asked about the costs of dredging as the bottom of the river was silting up. Could Dart Harbour obtain a dredging licence to pass onto interested parties who could come up with a suitable proposal? Rob Giles confirmed that organisations would have to sponsor a dredging licence themselves. However lobbying by Dart Harbour might be possible, which could make it easier for applicants to obtain a licence.

Jan Scott, Dart Harbour Board Member thanked the DHCUG very much for allowing him to attend the meeting. He stated that Dart Harbour valued the Stakeholder Groups enormously.

There being no other business, John Holman thanked Rob Giles and Jan Scott for coming to the meeting.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 20th May 2013 at 7.00pm.

Chairman Date