

# DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

## Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**Present:** J Holman (Chair), M Holman, S Kilpatrick, J A Scott, M Pope, C Cooper (Chairman, ADRUC), S Norvill, D Distin, I Noble, P Sheardown, R Giles (Harbourmaster), B Hollis, M Smallwood (Minutes)

**Apologies** J Robinson, A Hoile, L Fleming, A Pooley, M Sharman

The Chairman of ADRUC, Chris Cooper, was welcomed to the meeting by John Holman.

**Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 January 2013** After one minor amendment, were proposed by Barry Hollis, seconded by Melanie Holman and approved by all.

### Matters Arising

- Dittisham ramp is to be refurbished and the pontoon planks are being closely monitored
- Pump out facility – still ongoing. Dart Harbour continuing to liaise with SW Water

### Chairman's Report – John Holman

- Thanks to Dart Harbour for supporting the Hemsleys after the terrible fire on African Queen
- A further yacht fire occurred in the same week, caused by a gas cooker. Was Dart Harbour happy with the management of both fires? Rob Giles confirmed that the response in dealing with both fires had been excellent and the Lower Ferry team had done a marvellous job also. Nearly £3,000 had been raised in donations for Alan and Hilary Hemsley. It was agreed that a letter commending the Lower Ferry Team's actions should be sent by John Holman to Trevor Finch of SHDC **Action Rob to provide John with contact details**
- John and Melanie had attended a Volvo Penta Meeting in Rome. Volvo Penta feel the marine leisure market is now saturated so they are re-focussing their engine sales and moving to marine industrial (i.e. windfarms, marine commercial, etc)
- They had also visited Portishead and Bristol. New flats and lock gates have been built around the marina and they noted that all big events are based around the river there
- Dartmouth Music Festival had been hugely successful and more events based around the River Dart should be encouraged
- As boat owners get older, the marine leisure industry could take a hit unless younger people are encouraged to become boat owners/users

### Updates from River based Commercial Businesses

- Noss: business reasonable but not selling any new boats
- Ancasta: business reasonable and they have sold three 35-40ft motorboats
- Noss Marina: slightly up on berthing numbers from last year
- Dart Marina: Annual take-up is down but they have reduced their visitor prices
- Darthaven Marina: good annual take-up this year
- Brixham Marina: 97% full and getting visitors
- Torquay Marina: 80% full
- Baltic Wharf: really busy
- Dartside Quay: lifts very busy and sea lift is working well

- Blackness Marine: very busy; had a good winter and will be going ahead with their dry storage
- Water Taxis: doing well
- Ferries: considerably above last year and getting busier

#### Concerns raised

- Baltic Wharf: have concerns about the new development as the 200 boat berths seem too close together
- Dartside Quay: pool knowledge of any thefts and also report to the police who will publish on Cracken
- Dart Marina: complaints by owners that their boats are being damaged by staff working on repairs to other boats
- Complaint from Ian Noble about crabbing boats being tied up on the “no berthing” area of the pick-up point, Kingswear, having been given permission by Dart Harbour to do so. Who is liable if an accident should occur? Rob Giles confirmed the pick-up area would be kept clear and regular patrols will continue to monitor this
- For those interested in or using river or sea water, there is an RYA sponsored environmental register *website address available from John*

#### **Hon Treasurer’s Report – Barry Hollis**

- 27 Members at present. 7 paid up prior to this meeting

**NB** Those who have not yet paid their annual membership fee, please send payment of £25 to Barry Hollis at Rigging Solutions Ltd, 26 Foss Street, Dartmouth TQ6 9DR

#### **Harbour Update – Rob Giles**

- All harbour berths are let this year and renewed enthusiasm is apparent
- Dittisham access bridge to be replaced this year
- Kingswear Dinghy Rack being replaced this year
- New Visitors Pontoon (55m in length) by Higher Ferry
- Yacht Club pontoon has been re-topped and some floats re-painted
- Other projects down river being looked at
- Dredging project being looked into
- Business Improvement District (BID) is in the process of firming up what their outputs will be **Action John to speak to Paul Reach**
- Pension Fund – discussions on a positive note. It is hoped Dart Harbour users may not notice this liability much in the future
- Three new Dart Harbour Committee Members have taken their place on the Board
- Risk Assessments and Safety Management System operated very well over the Music Festival Weekend
- 4 cruise liner visits booked for this year; 6-7 planned for next year
- Hoodown facility being further improved
- Forward Vision Project is underway and questionnaire will go out shortly to commercial users and the public
- Rob to check that two new canoeing firms are licenced **Action Rob**
- Non Beneficiaries Stakeholder Group not active at present
- Water supplies at the Embankment have been inspected by SW Water. Taps have to be changed to be compliant and a break tank installed on Town Jetty before 15 June. Dart Harbour will be working with SHDC, SW Water and Western Power to keep water supplies going while the system is being upgraded.

**AOB – Jan Scott**

- Questionnaire to be circulated which will give everyone an opportunity to comment on the future of the River
- Dart Harbour Moorings Policy to be reviewed at the end of 2015. Everyone’s opinion will be sought by the Board
- Patricia Daniels has been co-opted onto the Board to focus on publicity and increased cruise liner visits

*A Presentation then followed by Toby Russell of Trinity Sailing Trust, Brixham*

The next meeting will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.00pm at DYC.

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