

DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on 20 January 2014

Present: J Holman (Chair), M Holman, J Robinson, T Morris, J Scott (DHNA Board), Neil Hockaday (DHNA Chairman), I Noble, S Norvill, D Distin, J Distin, M Strudwick, R Giles (Harbourmaster), B Hollis, M Smallwood (Minutes)

ACTION

1. Apologies P Sheardown, L Fleming, P Smith, B Taylor, N Brown, M Sharman

Paul Reach, Chairman of Dartmouth Business Forum, spoke to the members about the Dartmouth Business Improvement District Plan 2014-2019 and circulated brochures on this initiative.

The Chairman, John Holman, thanked Paul for attending the meeting and for his excellent and informative Presentation.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting One amendment on page 3: “MoD” to be replaced by “MMO”. The Minutes were then approved.

3. Matters Arising None.

4. Chairman’s Report

- This has been one of the wettest and windiest winters; some moorings have failed but in general the river has got off lightly. Talking to people at the Boat Show he had heard that a new marina had disintegrated on the third night of the gales and the boat lift at MDL Brixham had a damaged pile so the company have taken it out of operation for safety purposes.
- Feedback from the Boat Show: footfall there approx down by 8%, however a lot more interest in boats and sales were steady, showing some signs of improvement

Feedback from local river businesses

- Baltic Wharf: business slow due to the bad weather but was now taking off. Experiencing slight delays with the second phase of the development
- Dart Marina: a quiet winter
- Blackness Marine: optimistic outlook; now have their new dry stack shed and new office
- Dartside Quay: slow start but now full up and very busy
- Noss Marina: happy with bookings and their winter lift outs are up on last year
- Ancasta: a good start to the year
- Ferry Companies: quiet winter but had some good winter weekends due to trains running later this year
- Darthaven Marina: a quiet winter; chandlery sales picking up more than this time last year. Bookings for 2014 are at 95% at this stage
- Sailmakers: very busy – due to the gales!
- South Devon Marine College: all courses are full
- Dart Harbour: anticipate that all moorings will be filled; some dry moorings that have not been let for some time may be taken out
- The new Res Nova: has full permission to moor on the river as a restaurant

British Marine Federation is holding their AGM at South Devon College. John will be attending this.

ACTION

Hopefully commercial river users will benefit from the new Dartmouth Business Improvement Plan

John thanked the members for electing him for a further year as Chairman.

5. Treasurer's Report

Barry Hollis requested that any subscriptions due be paid.

6. Harbour Update

Rob Giles reported:

- The presentation by Paul Reach was extremely interesting. The Bid is exciting and Dartmouth as a whole needs to engage with the Bid and get as much out of it as possible
- Dart Harbour were negotiating with the Trustees of the Pilots National Pension Fund and were waiting to hear back from them. He would keep the Group posted with information on any latitude that may be given to Dart Harbour
- Harbour fees would hopefully continue to go up for the next few years in line with the RPI, depending on the outcome of PNP Fund negotiations which would be known during February
- Three new Board Members had been elected and Trevor Pollard and Sue Pudduck have left.
- It has been the windiest December since 1969. The Dartmouth RNLI had been very helpful in helping to secure some boats and mooring gear during the bad weather. It must be noted that the Authority is not an emergency service
- 2013 had been a much better year, financially and Dart Harbour continues to remain competitive with regard to mooring fees
- The Res Nova has had a commercial mooring reserved for her but will not open until 2015
- There had been a couple of minor safety incidents and a six monthly check is in place to ensure compliance with the Safety Code. Could Dart Harbour please be informed by commercial users of any safety incidents (small or large) on the river so these can be logged
- 5 visits were already planned for Cruise Liners to Dartmouth this year and this number may increase
- Some infra-structure projects were in place at Hoodown. Other ongoing projects: replacing town jetty; maintaining of 80-90 piles; improvement of Stoke Gabriel pontoon access and at Dittisham; refurbishment of Kingswear dinghy racks; improving technology aspects of the River with more customer focus; improving security of the Embankments
- Rob would be writing to the Chair as he would like input from the Commercial Users on their views
- Neil Hockaday stated that Dart Harbour was continuing the development of its "Forward Vision"

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Jeremy Robinson reported that Dittisham Pontoon is still buckling in the heat which is a safety issue. The planks have been shortened in length but this also needs to be done across their width. Rob confirmed he would look into this and action improvement,

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however the design of the pontoon is a problem.

- Dart Harbour AGM was held on on 9th December and the Annual Report was available for the first time on the website
- The Non-Beneficiaries Stakeholder Group was not running at the moment. Rob continues to recommend the CUG to all new commercial users of the river
- ADRUC had no Chairman at present
- Deficiencies in the Embankment were being raised with SHDC
- Dr Sarah Wollaston's had been extremely supportive of Dart Harbour and the CUG for which Rob was most grateful
- It was agreed that the CUG would become the 'Public User Group' for Dart Harbour.

7. AOB

- Barry stated he had reported on boats with bad mooring lines that he had helped to secure during the bad weather
- Jan suggested the CUG pressurise the SHDC to help with the launching problem for small boats
- Pump out facility is needed in the River. Rob had been in communications with the water company who are working towards this.

Date of next Meeting: To be held on Monday 19th May 2014 at 7.00pm

Chairman Date