

Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority

Minutes of a Meeting of the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority held in The Studio at the Flavel Centre, Flavel Place, Dartmouth, on Monday 11th April 2011, commencing at 1400 hrs.

PRESENT:	Mr N Hockaday	Chairman
	Mr J Scott	Vice Chairman
	Mr M Cast	
	Mr O Hill	
	Ms H Meacock	
	Mr J Murtagh	
	Mr T Pollard	
	Ms S Pudduck	
	Mr R Giles	Harbour Master
	IN ATTENDANCE:	Mrs P Johns

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

2. Questions from the Public

There was one member of the public present and the Assistant Harbour Master in attendance.

3. Stakeholder Groups

3.1 River Dart Non Beneficiary Group – the Harbour Master attended the meeting held on 17th March and reported that the group is diminishing and there is a need to try and develop the groups to obtain a critical mass. It was noted that local government elections in May would impact on town and parish councils and that it would be advisable to make contact with the local councils, in June, following the elections in May.

ACTION: Harbour Master.

3.2 Commercial Users Group – This group is working well and keeping the Authority informed of activities.

3.3 Association of Dart River User Clubs (ADRUC) – an informal meeting between Jock Douglas and other representatives of the group is taking place with the Harbour Master in the next few days. No information has been received so far about a date for a meeting of this group.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 14th March 2011

It was proposed by Ms Pudduck and seconded by Mrs Meacock with all in favour **“that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting”**.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes held on 14th March 2011

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

6 Agenda Items

6.1 Dartmouth – St Malo Sailing Ferry (Donal Lang)

Donal Lang provided background information about the proposals to develop a sailing ferry link between Dartmouth and St Malo. The project is gaining momentum with interest from St Malo port and EU funding is probable for 50% funding of the project. The vessel would be a 60m/200ft sailing ferry with modern rig to carry 250 foot passengers on an overnight passage between the two ports. Mr Lang asked the Board for in principle support for the concept of developing this ferry link.

Discussion took place and the Board expressed concerns over logistics, legislation (eg customs and excise), security and the infrastructure requirements that would be necessary and which were not currently available in Dartmouth.

It was noted that investigations were taking place into connections with rail links via the steam railway in order to make this a sustainable transport operation. Locations for the docking area were considered with Kingswear, Sandquay, Noss and Dartmouth being suggested.

The project is looking for letters of support and has received them from St Malo, Plymouth University and SW Investors.

It was agreed to provide a letter of support for the concept of a sailing ferry link to St Malo from Dartmouth subject to further details being provided.

ACTION: Harbour Master.

6.2 Dittisham Pontoon

The Harbour Master reported that he had received a fax from the supplier concerning the safety standards, which reads as follows:-

“I can confirm that the Plasti recycled decking used on Dittisham’s pontoon was tested by Cranfield University for slip resistance. The test was carried out in February 2006 to BS7976/BS812, a Department of Transport recommendation for surfaces in pedestrian areas. In all tests, both wet and dry, the Plasti exceeds the minimum recommended slip resistance and performs in a similar way to grooved hardwood.”

It was noted that there have been no reported incidents on the pontoon.

General regular inspections, maintenance and good housekeeping will continue to take place to keep free from seagull droppings and ensure the surface is clear and free from tripping hazards. The lifting planks will be installed shortly.

It was noted that this matter was now closed as far as the Board were concerned and would continue to be an operational matter for the Harbour Master.

6.3 Young Champion Award

Ms Pudduck reported that Phil Scoble has been appointed and has been very active in generating 4 press stories about the award scheme, he has also reported that several schools have expressed an interest in participating. However it should be noted that the launch in 2011 has been too late for many schools to participate because they would normally plan their curriculum for the following year during the school summer holidays. Phil Scoble is going to continue to contact schools. It was suggested that more attention should be given to getting clubs involved.

It was agreed to encourage Phil Scoble to put more emphasis on clubs.

ACTION: Ms Pudduck.

6.4 Noss on Dart

It was noted that the anticipated start date for the sheet piling would be in May/June which would trigger the three month time period prior to payment of the Marina Contribution.

6.5 Friends of Dart Harbour

A meeting was held on 23rd March which was not well attended, the next meeting is proposed for 23rd June at the Dartmouth Yacht Club. Discussion took place and **it was agreed** to support a social gathering of the FODH following the meeting. The FODH will create the agenda for this meeting and the format of the social gathering and Dart Harbour will provide an appropriate budget to pay for the refreshments. The only input to the agenda from Dart Harbour would be to request the Forward Vision be tabled.

ACTION: Senior Administrator to inform FODH that the meeting on 23rd June may be followed by a social gathering with refreshments hosted by Dart Harbour. FODH to prepare agenda and to include the Dart Harbour Forward Vision as an agenda item from the Authority.

6.6 Health & Safety

Nothing to report.

6.7 Environmental Matters

The Harbour Master reported that he had attended a meeting with the Salcombe Harbour Master with a representative from Finding Sanctuary (FS) concerning MCZ feedback. Finding Sanctuary gave a presentation and a timetable. It is likely that ministerial approval

will come in June with a formal document coming out in 2012. Nothing is yet set in stone. Salcombe Harbour attended in force in order to emphasise their concerns regarding their SSSI status for eel grass beds and to let FS know that they do not need another restrictive area.

Dart Harbour is flexible with an open positive attitude to the environment. There are netting and other licences in force in the Dart and there is good communication with those parties. The relationship with the Environment Agency is growing and contact with them is practical and not theoretical.

Both Salcombe and Dartmouth are not in favour of the consultation process for the Finding Sanctuary project and will be informing them of this fact.

The Authority is very conscious it needs to maintain a sustainable environment.

It was suggested that the website could be developed to include an environmental initiative section to highlight the Authority's position on the environment.

It was agreed to ask the Estuary Officer for input to this section.

ACTION: Harbour Master/Senior Administrator.

6.8 Pilotage

The Harbour Master reported that Des McClindon would not be available for pilot work until early June. It was noted that Captain White was away and the Harbour Master would make contact with him when he returned to the UK.

It was noted that there is not enough trade to employ a full time pilot but that there is scope to share pilots with other ports. An initial discussion has taken place with Teignmouth Harbour. Discussion took place and it was felt to be beneficial to carry out a review of pilotage in the area and prepare a report to the Board by the end of the year. It was noted that the Authority is obliged to provide pilotage and to achieve this two trained pilots would be necessary to cover all ships.

It was agreed to pursue the appointment of two pilots for the Dart, to prepare a report for a future pilotage plan and to consult with Captain White regarding training of new pilots.

ACTION: Harbour Master.

7. Reports

7.1 CEO Report

The CEO Report was noted and reference made, in particular, to the following:-

2.2 Mid River Visits. It was noted that navy vessels are charged for the use of buoys, water, garbage collection and labour but are not charged for Harbour Dues.

2.10 Duchy of Cornwall. Discussion took place concerning the enquiry from the Duchy of Cornwall about whether the Authority had any record of negotiations with SHDC negotiations with SHDC in 1994 regarding the footbridge over the River Dart near to

Totnes which leads to the nearby South Devon Railway Station. No correspondence has been found and the Duchy have been informed.

No further meeting has been held with the Duchy concerning the negotiations on an amendment to the Lease.

2.11.1 Hoodown Phase 1. This item would be discussed In Committee because of the commercially sensitive information to be considered.

2.11.2 Stoke Gabriel Pontoon. The Harbour Master circulated a plan of a proposed dogleg design for the Stoke Gabriel Pontoon which could provide an additional 6 berths which may then be let by the Authority. It was noted that working together with the local users was a sensible solution. **It was agreed** to consult thoroughly with the Stoke Gabriel Boating Association, Parish Council, Stakeholder Groups and other local groups and consider their responses.

4.6.1 National Occupational Standards for Harbour Masters - A pilot scheme for Harbour Masters is about to commence under the auspices of the UK Harbour Masters Association (UKHMA). On completion of the pilot, the scheme is expected to be approved by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA). As part of HM / AHM continuous professional development (CPD), it is strongly recommended that Dart Harbour endeavours to gain certification as soon as possible. Discussion took place and **it was agreed** not to take part in the pilot scheme, but to be a fast follower and that the Harbour Master and Assistant Harbour Master be encouraged to participate.

ACTION: Harbour Master.

4.7 Volunteers – The Harbour Master reported that a meeting has been held with the volunteers and the main query was whether the Authority would be spending any money on improving the boat used by the volunteers. Following discussion **it was agreed** that the Harbour Master would investigate options to improve the vessel and consider the possibility of adapting The Maid as the volunteers' vessel and report back to the July meeting.

ACTION: Harbour Master.

7.2 Finance Report

Bank Accounts

	February 2010 £	February 2011 £
DHNA	42,605.55	139,943.67
Cater	740,495.59	945,317.88
Pilot	11,324.48	11,864.48
Waiting List	120,455.00	115,155.51

Mr Pollard reported that cash is up on last year but also that a fair amount is expected to be paid out for VAT, Duchy rent and to SHDC. The accounts are on a par with last year with a couple of timing issues. Mr Pollard also reported that there are no significant debtors and collection of any outstanding sums is being carried out.

Mr Pollard advised that he is reasonably comfortable with the current position and no holes were appearing in the figures. A few deep water moorings are not let and **it was agreed** to investigate marketing opportunities for these specific berths to raise the profile of the area where these moorings are located.

ACTION: Harbour Master to investigate marketing opportunities for vacant berths.

8. Any Other Business

Baltic Wharf

Mr Scott advised the Board that detailed planning permission for the Baltic Wharf development was not expected until September 2011.

Mooring below Little Dartmouth

Mr Cast reported seeing a mooring which has appeared below Little Dartmouth where a large rib was moored up. **It was agreed** to investigate the mooring.

ACTION: Assistant Harbour Master.

Forward Vision

The Harbour Master reported that he had received an invitation from Chichester Harbour for the board to visit their operation as part of the Board Training Day. It was also noted that a visit to the Hydrographic Office in Taunton would be an useful training activity for the Board. **It was agreed** to consider these options when planning the Board Training Day.

Auditing Standards

Mr Pollard circulated a paper for each board member to complete for the auditors.

9. Move into Committee

It was proposed by Mr Pollard and seconded by Mr Cast with all in favour, "**that the meeting move "Into Committee"**".

10. Decisions made "In Committee"

It was proposed by Mr Pollard and seconded Ms Pudduck, with all in favour "**to ratify decisions made In Committee"**

11. Date of next Meeting – Monday 9th May 2011 at the Flavel Centre, Dartmouth at 2.00pm.