

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 9th May 2011, commencing at 1400 hrs.

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mr M Cast and Ms H Meacock

2. Questions from the Public

There was one member of the public present. Mr Gary Walker asked for an update on the Friends of Dart Harbour (FODH) in view of the fact that the FODH has been in force for over a year and there were concerns, from some, that their skills were not being utilised.

It was noted that although there has been limited contact with FODH to date the forthcoming Forward Vision work, being carried out to plan the Authority's direction for the next 10 years, would be a key area where the FODH could be involved.

It was also noted that the original purpose of the FODH was for the organisation to be able to offer a database of skills which the Authority could call upon when specific information or skills were required. It was not intended to form a Stakeholder Group as this would be contrary to the Harbour Revision Order (2002).

Mr Scott advised that the next meeting was being held on 23rd June 2011 at the Dartmouth Yacht Club and that the Authority will be hosting refreshments to follow the meeting. The agenda will be prepared by the FODH and an item about the Forward Vision will be included on behalf of the Authority.

3. Stakeholder Groups

3.1 River Dart Non Beneficiary Group – The next meeting is scheduled for July.

3.2 Commercial Users Group – A meeting was held recently and there were few issues. The group have a positive approach to the MCZs and Finding Sanctuary matters and they are robust in their defence of their commercial activities but also supportive of keeping the river sustainable and maintaining fish stocks.

3.3 Association of Dart River User Clubs (ADRUC) – A meeting was held with the group. Topics raised were:-

- Marking fishing gear to avoid obstructions
- Speeding – the Harbour Master explained about a new written warning system being introduced this season. It was noted that those regularly speeding were aware of the operating times of staff rotas. The Harbour Master will also discuss speeding at the SWRPA meeting to ascertain how other harbours tackle speeding enforcement.
- There was interest in the balance between the leisure and commercial costs. It was noted that this information is made available at the Annual Meeting each December.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 11th April 2011

It was proposed by Mr Pollard and seconded by Mr Hill with all in favour **“that the minutes represented a true record of the meeting”**.

5. Matters Arising from Minutes held on 11th April 2011

Young Champion Award – Ms Pudduck advised that another press release has been issued and that Phil Scoble is concentrating on encouraging clubs to participate.

7.2 Finance Report – The Harbour Master advised that he was still investigating marketing opportunities and would report back in due course to the Board as part of his CEO report.

Mooring below Little Dartmouth – it was noted that an investigation had taken place and the mooring was found to be located outside the Authority’s area of jurisdiction.

6 Agenda Items

6.1 Noss on Dart

Nothing to report. It was noted that a Section 106 Agreement has not yet been signed by Noss Marina Ltd and the planning permissions have not yet been released.

6.2 Friends of Dart Harbour

This agenda item was covered in Item 2 (Questions from the Public).

6.3 Health & Safety

It was noted that the newly installed water system has been given a clean bill of health and is providing improved water pressure. The water pressure will be further improved once the apron works at Hoodown are complete and the larger gauge pipe has been installed.

6.4 Environmental Matters

The Harbour Master reported on a preliminary summary of the Finding Sanctuary proposals for the Dart. It was noted that the area now being suggested for a MCZ is the upper reaches of the Dart from the Anchorstone upwards. The proposal has not been formally provided to the Authority. The Authority needs to wait to see what the protection measures and levels of enforcement will be.

6.5 RNLI Ambassador Scheme

The Board considered a request for the Authority to participate in their RNLI Ambassador Scheme and it was agreed not to support this activity for the following reasons:-

- Dart Harbour is a strong supporter of the RNLI – any donation options that occur to us are diverted straight to RNLI.
- We are uncomfortable with the commitment to generate and foster 100 members owing to limited resource.
- We have limited office space for displays.
- We already have an excellent relationship with the local RNLI station.

ACTION: Harbour Master to respond to the RNLI.

7. Reports

7.1 CEO Report

Mr Scott reported that the CEO reports were welcomed and well presented. The CEO Report was noted and reference made, in particular, to the following:-

2.6.1 and 2.6.2. Mr Pollard asked for clarification from the Harbour Master on the reasoning behind these new policies. The Harbour Master responded that the purpose was to discourage the use of the visitor facilities by vessels who were endeavouring to access a more permanent berthing solution by paying visitors fees and taking up space on the visitor's pontoon

2.6.3. Over stays on the dinghy 'double steps' pontoon, mainly connected with people living aboard vessels is being policed more stringently – the max length of wait on this pontoon is 6 hours. A 12 hour wait will be available on the green pontoon at the steps upstream of the double steps. It was also noted that the Hoodown dinghy rack is also being abused by overstaying berth holders' dinghies. The Low Water Landing currently has a 6 hour restriction, however consideration will be given to improving the facilities on this pontoon for berth holders and a report will follow in due course with suggested improvements at this location.

2.8. Dredging. The dispute has been settled with the contractor. The Harbour Master is investigating an improved solution with other companies to give more depth on the inside of the DB pontoon. Consideration will also be given to other areas where dredging would be beneficial (inside Town Jetty, Double Steps and liaise with Dartmouth Town Council regarding the Boat Float).

7.2 Finance Report

Bank Accounts

	April 2010 £	April 2011 £
DHNA	755,781.97	872,157.77
Cater	740,641.87	946,319.25
Pilot	11,314.48	11,854.48
Waiting List	120,455.00	115,155.51

Mr Pollard reported that payments for VAT and Duchy were to due be paid. Income generation was very good for Easter and April. River maintenance stocks are being kept low intentionally to assist operational issues. Mr Pollard reported he had no concerns regarding overheads.

Mr Pollard advised that he is working with the Accountant and Finance Manager on cashflow especially taking into account the Hoodown Development Project, the SHDC slipway and Stoke Gabriel pontoon capital expenditure items.

8. Any Other Business

Creeping Moorings

Mr. Scott had been advised that boat stowage on the foreshore at Dittisham Sailing club was gradually creeping South and where there had once been an unobstructed view of the river there were now boats and masts in view. **It was agreed** to check who owns the beach and make further enquiries.

ACTION: Harbour Master to check who owns beach and Mr Scott to speak to Dr Walker in Dittisham.

9. Move into Committee

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

10. Decisions made "In Committee"

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

11. Date of next Meeting – Monday 13th June 2011 at the Flavel Centre, Dartmouth at 2.00pm.