

## MINUTES OF ADRUC MEETING, 21.3.2018.

Members Present: Anne Davis, Chair (SGBA), Norman Doidge (RDYC), Marion Adams (Commodore TBA), Ian Adams (TBA), Mike Brown (DYC), Steve Oakley (Dart Sailability).

Attending: John Ellwood, DHNA Board Member; Nick Clarence, Deputy Harbourmaster.

AD welcomed members to the meeting. She thanked John Ellwood and Nick Clarence for attending, and also the Commodore of TBA for allowing us to use their facilities.

1. Apologies; James Dodd (DSC), Paul Quest (DLBOA).

2. Minutes of meeting 2.10.2017 accepted.

3. Matters Arising. To be covered in items below.

4. Chair's report.

AD reported that she had started as Chair planning to meet as many members as possible on an individual basis to build a picture of priorities and concerns among river users. To date she has met with Marion Adams, Mike Brown and Kevin Pyne and has spoken with Norman Doidge and Paul Quest. She will be arranging to meet Steve Oakley, and hopefully also representatives from rowing and gig clubs. She reported on a half day session spent with the HM covering proposed changes to DA/DB pontoons and other items, details below.

5. HM's update, presented by the Deputy HM including responses to members' questions.

Nick Clarence presented the DHNA's progress in the following matters:

- Pilotage and Shipping: 10 cruise liners are expected this season, 2 of which are too large to enter river and will anchor off in the approaches. Anchorage will be planned to avoid any obstruction to the entrance. Pilotage standards being upgraded.
- Buoyage: Nav buoys in Bow Creek have been repositioned to reflect current channel. Buoyage off Duncannon being similarly adjusted, with replacement of pole markers with buoys in some places.
- MMO (Marine Management Organisation) plans being monitored with respect to possible designation changes in the Dart, particularly the higher reaches.
- Mooring pontoon changes: see below.
- Annual Maintenance of moorings, pontoons etc is largely finished and should be completed in next 3 weeks.
- Safety Standards: The team are committed to improving standards progressively and work continues on this with, for example, replacement of older pontoons. An upgrade of the water taxi service is being implemented with extended hours and two vessels on the water. The fee for passengers has also been halved to £1 per single trip to encourage use of the water taxi and a reduction of the use of inflatable tenders. A particular focus is being made on reported incidents and responding to these effectively.

- Communication: A moorings survey is to take place soon to inform a review of moorings with reference to mooring types ( swinging, pontoon, walk ashore etc), access and other factors. The results of this survey will be used to adjust availability of moorings to match demand as much as possible.
- Scrubbing Grids: progress v slow with S Hams.
- Proposed permanent walk-ashore pontoon close to DYC. Plans for this have stalled as there are technical difficulties, particularly related to the exposed position of this site. The placing of a seasonal pontoon at this site will not be affected.

#### 6. Proposed changes to pontoon DA/DB (establishing a walk-ashore pontoon to Pontoon DA).

AD reported that very extensive consultation has taken place including a meeting between the HM and members of DLBOA open to all members; and noting correspondence received. AD has had sight of the responses of which the majority are in favour, with some sensible reservations being expressed. AD has also had a very productive dialogue on this matter with the HM including a joint site visit. The meeting therefore supported the development provided it takes place as planned in a sensitive fashion. NC reported that the HM hopes to have the new pontoon in place this year, together with replacing at least 6 of the older pontoon units.

#### 7. Dredging.

AD reported on discussion with HM. The main problems with dredging now are the great difficulty disposing of spoil; and the extremely high costs of dredging operations. The only practical form of dredging available would be agitation dredging but even this has major issues. Significant levels of dredging are not therefore planned at present.

#### 8. Harbour Dues and Mooring Fees.

- Harbour dues have been abolished for vessels under 4m in length and for those with no mechanical propulsion. This simplifies the collection of dues and as fees were rarely collected from these categories of vessel, will not affect income to any extent.
- The newly established "Registration Fee" is a proportion of the annual mooring fee now payable two months before the residue becomes payable. This has been implemented to find out in good time whether permanent berth holders wish to renew their reservation. Although it has been largely successful, ADRUC would like to have seen better dialogue with river users over its implementation. AD has suggested re-naming it a "Mooring Renewal Pre-payment" to clarify its purpose.

#### 9. Pot markers.

- Norman Doidge reported that the Government response to the recent petition promises only to look at areas where enforcement of existing regulations could be enhanced. The DHNA continues to regulate pot markers within harbour limits.

10. Air Display, Regatta 2018. A decision has not yet been made by the Regatta Committee as to whether this will take place.

#### 11. AOB.

JE: Higher Ferry Slipway. A Trust has recently been established by Sir Geoffrey Newman to raise funds to help finance the development of a more satisfactory slipway with increased facilities for small boat launching. The meeting agreed that we should keep a focus on this and AD will contact Sir Geoffrey to express our close interest in developments.

MA emphasised the need to increase separation between the Higher Ferry and small boat launching.

It was noted that trailer storage is a particular issue. AD to re- approach management of Noss development regarding their proposals for storage.

MA queried progress on the installation of marker poles on the tidally submerging concrete ledge in the approaches to TBA landing. AD discussed this with the HM at her recent meeting, and was assured that the poles would be in place by Easter, 2018. NC to look into completion of this work.

12. Date of next Meeting. To take place at NYC in October 2018; date still to be arranged, will be circulated asap.