

# DART HARBOUR COMMERCIAL USERS GROUP

## Minutes of Meeting held at Dartmouth Yacht Club on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Present: John Holman (Chair), Melanie Holman (secretary/scribe), Robert Green (Treasurer), Rob Everitt (Asst Harbour Master), Julian Distin DH, Zoe Briant-Evans DH, Stephen Norvill, Stephen Kilpatrick, Ben Morris, Scott Harris, Charlie Horton, Graham Bush, Lee Freeman, Mark Strudwick, Tom Morris and Joe (Anchor Stone ferry).

1. **Apologies** received; Becky Fry, Beshlie Pool, Mark Cooper HM, Nick Clarence, Andy Osman, Les English, Will&Anne-Marie Mason, Barry Hollis, Peter Stenner and Andrew Pooley.

2. **Introduction** from JH - Chairman

Welcome to everyone and to Rob Everitt who is representing the Harbour Master.

3. **Minutes of the previous Meeting** held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2018

These were proposed by Steven Norvill, seconded by Julian Distin and approved by all.

4. **Matters Arising**

A letter was sent to South Hams Ref; steps opposite to Sharpham but no response has been received.

5. **Chairman's Report**

Finally, a great Summer for boat owners and visitors. Some berth holders did get to The Scilly Isles after many years of trying!

July was ideal for owners of motor boats as there was not much wind.

August proved better conditions for sailing but not enough at Regatta.

The Charter Angling Boats did well for customers but not too many fish!

Dartmouth Fuel Barge did well this season but the good weather did not prove great for all – local ferry companies have said it was disappointing. Holiday lettings the same.

Marine Services seem to have been very busy with riggers, sailmakers, engineers, polishers, repairers – all reporting good trade after a slow start in the Spring.

Brokers have had a steady year with more foreign interest due to the exchange rate. New Boat Sales slow due to uncertain economic situation.

Melanie and I went to Jersey in June with TYHA - the marina section of British Marine. The 3 main marinas in Jersey are state owned – 2 are well geared up for visitors as they see the benefits of attracting both UK and French boats on a regular basis. The tides are huge and timing is all important for access. We had a day trip to Guernsey. Again 2 marinas in St Peter Port are state owned. Beaucette, further north, is a private marina fashioned from a quarry by REME – a very challenging entrance. The group were taken on a visit to the Control Tower at Jersey Airport and The Coastguard Headquarters – both very interesting.

On our way back we went to Seawork in early July in Southampton – the main commercial show.

It goes from strength to strength with lots of foreign interest.

Premier Marinas now have their Planning permission for the development. The marina facilities are going to be in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase next Autumn. Projected cost (in total) will be £75million.

More ship visits again (including the one that made it on U-tube etc).

Plenty of activities on the river;

Ditisham Regatta, Paddle boarding, Wild swimming, lots of kayaking etc

Dart Sailability is doing well and the College now doing exercises in ribs.

Southampton Boat Show last week was rather disappointing – smaller despite no London Show in January and the poor weather didn't help! Early reports indicate slow sales.

## Input from the attendees and apologisers;

**Darthaven;** New Hoist is now working well – old one sold to a company in Belgium. Unfortunately, the Pump-Out system is not working at present.

**Castle Ferry;** Beach weather so not too many passengers

**Charlie Horton;** OK – tuition further afield

**Dolphin Boatyard;** Fishing Boats in for refits – new pontoons installed ok.

**Steve @ Mainstay;** Very quiet and no bookings for work to be done, yet.

**Steve Norvill;** Hot weather halted demand for river trips.

**Totnes Kayaks;** Numbers up and then down again in September. Campsites not busy.

**Andrew Pooley @ DSRRB;** A challenging season and ending up the same as last year – Regatta a non-event!

**Beshlie Pool @ SDandCS;** Good Asian market so Crabbers OK.

**Premier @ Noss;** Visitors numbers up and water taxi well used.

**Paul Singer @South Devon College;** All courses doing well. A BM grant to improve relationships with French marinas...

Many thanks for all the input.

## **6. Hon Treasurer's Report**

*Issue with the Bank wrt Robert as a User and able to sign cheques etc still ongoing!*

All members have now paid up and the balance stands at £1,809.65.

## **7. Harbour Master's Report** (provided by Assistant Rob Everitt)

### CUG update from DHM –Sept 2018

Commercial User Group (24 Sep 18) – Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority Input

#### Fishing Pontoon Replacement:

Still awaiting a response on the Fishing Pontoon (Coastal Community Funding bid to replace KP and KQ pontoons).

#### 2018 Season:

- A good season with Visitor takings up 8% (Jan -Sep) with big increase in spring takings. 2.5% of the increase was due to increased visitors in May and 4% of the increase being increased numbers in April.
- Regatta numbers (taking account of bank holiday and regatta) were down 10% Residential income increased by improved mooring layout (adjusted to fit waiting lists)
- Cruise ship numbers equal to 2017 Superyachts and bigger sailing vessels numbers up (not sure if this is good weather or DHNA attracting people back)?

#### Safety:

2018 has continued to see an increase in speeding incidents with many of them involving locals.

#### Pontoons:

Generally good behaviour on our pontoons from commercial and leisure users following our relaxed policing routines out of season and our request for all year round users to be free up facilities at peak periods – Thank You!  
But there were a couple of exceptions.

One involving a leisure vessel crew getting verbal abuse from a commercial vessel trying to land on DHNA water taxi berth after HM had agreed to allow the yacht to berth following a request from Darthaven as they yacht needed disabled facilities. The second is the congestion around the temporary pontoon in Dittisham.

These incidents and complaints about access to some of the landing pontoons have highlighted to the HM the inequality of charges being applied for commercial landing. HM will be reviewing landing and mooring fees.

None of our DHNA facilities are used by so many people that safety is an issue. But this does assume that those using the facilities do respect other users and use the facilities as allowed by their DHNA agreement. These facilities are expensive to replace and it is appropriate that those who use them contribute to replacement costs. I think that the users would also prefer to pay low charges that come with self-regulation than incur additional charges that come with any requirement to provide a more permanent presence of harbour staff?

As far as Dittisham is concerned DHNA will be collecting feedback on the temporary pontoon and the jetty to gauge the cross stakeholder views in preparation for the 2019 season. It is believed the increase in numbers using the pontoons/jetty is down to a number of factors and it will be important to take in stakeholder views before making decisions for next season. Please let us have your feedback either through the CUG or directly.

### Future Developments

DHNA will continue to pursue funding for the Fishing Vessel pontoon and will be seeking stakeholder input on any new developments.

There appears to be an obvious shortage of all tide landings that are suitable for the less able bodied from low freeboard vessels and the HM is going to look at options that might improve the situation.

Thank you:

DHNA would like to thank you from your continued support in 2018 which has been a good year

### Questions/Answers DHNA

Scrubbing Grids are now in use.

Kingswear Grid much smaller for boats less than 10m – no water or electricity.

Issues with South Hams over water use.

Thanks to Rob for patrolling the river.

Weight restriction for parking by the Gantry on the S. Embankment? Rob to check.

### **8. Dittisham Pontoons.**

The drystacks cannot be blamed for more use – generally considered better but it was a very busy season and larger ribs are being used rather than smaller dinghies. Could the pontoons be policed a bit more??

The same applies to Stoke Gabriel Pontoons. ‘Add-on’ pontoons may be a good idea but there was a worry about moving closer to the rocks.

### **9. Regatta**

Considered by some to be a non-event but enjoyed more by locals who feel they have ‘regained’ it. Visitors came for the right reasons and not just Air Displays?

Harbour pontoons were not very busy – both weekend a bit down on numbers with fewer boats.

Please send views/feedback to [melanie@darthaven.co.uk](mailto:melanie@darthaven.co.uk)

### **10. Kingswear Pontoon** - Historic situation on Darthaven’s Visitors’ Pontoon.

It was a condition for Planning Consent (2001) of DHNA that there would be limited public access on the Darthaven Visitors’ Pontoon. One side is **Yellow** – denotes a very short stay for loading/unloading. The other side is **Blue** which is a short stay max. 2 hours. (These to be ‘policed’ by DHNA). The Harbour Taxis use the Yellow section and it is hoped that commercial boats do not ‘overstay’.

**11. Marine Conservation Zones**

Hopefully members have been in touch with DH to express their views.  
There has been concern that it might be a problem using Racing Buoys at Dittisham Regatta?  
There is reassurance from the HM that there will not be too much change.  
There are also concerns about the spread of Pacific oysters and the maintenance of swinging moorings.  
Research into potential eco damage would prove to be a big issue – a fear of too much bureaucracy.  
Not sure of the Time Scale and there is hope that the HM will assist in voicing the worries of the river users.

**12. A.O.B.**

**Worries about silting in the river**

It was proposed by Mark Strudwick that a ‘Flow Model’ should be produced to give information on the likely affect that the Noss Development will have downstream.  
It can be assumed that the developers should have included this in order to obtain their Planning permission. Was this insisted upon by DH??

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.

**13. Date of next Meeting/AGM tbc Monday January 28th 2019 at DYC 19.00**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 20.45

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