

ASSOCIATION OF DART RIVER USER CLUBS

Date of Meeting: 1930, Thursday 11th October 2018

Venue: Gunroom, Dartmouth Yacht Club, 22, S Embankment, Dartmouth TQ6 9BB

MEETING MINUTES.

Present:

Chair Anne Davis.

Members and organisations represented: Ian Adams TBA, Mike Brown Dartmouth YC, Norman Doige RDYC.

In attendance: Harbourmaster Mark Cooper, Board Member John Ellwood.

1. Apologies: James Dodd, Paul Quest

2. Minutes of ADRUC meeting 21.3.2018 approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising:

-Marker Poles, Totnes.

Marker poles have now been installed on the concrete shelf in the main river opposite TBA clubhouse to prevent vessels hitting the shelf when it is submerged.

-Pilotage upgrade.

Discussions are currently taking place at the DHNA board regarding Pilotage policies. Pilot training in simulators is being considered. The recent incident involving the cruise liner Saga Pearl II is being reviewed by independent experts.

4. Chair's report:

-A high priority in ADRUC activity is to ensure that it actively represents, and input is received from, as many eligible river organisations as possible. To that end the chairman has been meeting with clubs and associations on the river, emphasising that communication is now very effective and that ADRUC has an excellent two way dialogue with the HM and board.

-Pontoon Developments; this item discussed in HM's report.

-Noss Marina Development. A meeting has been arranged with the Marina Manager Andy Osman; see post meeting note.

-Skerries Buoy: After local input to the Hydrographic Office this is to be maintained and is now lit (Fl Red 5 secs).

-Bear's Tail rock. Members should note that the Bear's Tail Rock in position 50 20' 049N, 003 32' 666W shows a distinct reduction of the charted depth from 1.3m to 0.1m, as identified in the June 2018 survey of the estuary.

5. Harbour Master's Report:

-Safety. There have been more reported incidents on the river but reporting has been made easier so this may not be a true increase. Reports have been requested about any incident where lessons can be learned or trends identified (e.g. unlit tenders, speeding). Relevant photos are welcomed to accompany reports. The Water Taxi charge has been halved, with subsequent increased usage improving safety. There are always 2 harbour staff on duty at all times when the taxi is running.

-New Developments. The HM has been focussing on pontoon use in all sections of the river. More temporary pontoons have been acquired which can be moved around as needed. The pontoon at Stoke Gabriel Mill Point, accessible half tide down, has been very well received and the HM is approaching the Parish Council and SGBA to decide future installation there. The additional Summer pontoon at Dittisham had a mixed reception and is under review for future years. A very significant increase has been noted in the numbers of small craft - RIBs, kayaks, jetskis and paddleboards - using the river and the DHNA board is considering future strategies for managing this increase.

-Mooring Optimisation. Many visitor moorings are underused. To get the best buoy usage, buoys off Galampton have been repositioned to off Blackness and Maypool. The mooring fees for next year will be decided at the Board Meeting in November, but it is hoped that these can be increased by less than the RPI.

Discussion took place on the following items:

-Trials of Temporary Pontoons (see above). Developments received favourably in most cases. The connection of pontoon DA to the shore via Pontoon DB has been well received.

-Inclusion of river developments in Neighbourhood Plans. The HM emphasised the need for local development groups to include the river and its banks in their policies, and encouraged ADRUC members to get involved at their local level.

- Plans for a new landing pontoon at TBA clubhouse. These plans are at an early stage. Ian Adams for the TBA presented the preliminary proposals. E-photos of the proposed development will be circulated with these Minutes for comment from other ADRUC members.

- Dredging: The HM reported that as technology is moving forward, more dredging may become possible in the Dart. Some possible ideas include using dredged spoil to reinforce the river bank at the "Hole in the Wall" near Sharpham.

- Facilities for which South Hams is responsible. The HM is working on rationalising of charges of such facilities as the scrubbing grid; and on improved maintenance of ladders for running moorings.

- Access for disabled river users is to be improved. AD to involve the rep from Dart Sailability (Steven Oakey) on this.

6. Mayflower 400.

John Ellwood presented the various projects being developed to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the sailing from the Dart of Mayflower and Speedwell. Among many projects, the following are planned:

Ashore:

- South Devon College; model of Mayflower to trail to venues.
- Various school projects including sculpture, a book about the Mayflower passengers, film project.

The celebrations are planned to start at Thanksgiving 2019 to encourage visitors from the US and Canada. A centrepiece will be a Son et Lumiere at the Britannia Royal Naval College.

Maritime:

-Mayflower week on the water immediately after the Regatta 2020, starting with a pageant of vintage boats. Sailing trips to Plymouth and back may take place in suitable craft.

-It is planned that local clubs throughout the river should be invited to develop their own projects to make the celebrations an exceptional event involving the whole local community.

John will be contacting and visiting local organisations to encourage activities.

7. Norman Doige drew attention to the fact that there is a claim to private ownership of Lighthouse Beach near the entrance to the river. Be aware of this if straying above the HW line.

8. AOB.

Norman Doige drew the attention of the HM to silting off the RDYC. HM will consider agitation dredging there.

9. Date of next meeting. March 2019; possibly a joint meeting with our fellow stakeholder group the Dart Harbour Communities Group (ex- Non-beneficiaries Group).

Anne Davis Oct 2018

Post meeting note:

AD's meeting with Manager, Noss on Dart Marina, Andy Osman.

Purpose of meeting: to keep up to date with developments at Noss on Dart, and develop continuing communication with marina.

Points covered:

Detailed planning permission has been granted for the marina

development. Permission for the residential development is only outline and this will take place in the longer term.

The longterm plan is to attract a range of tenant businesses to provide a full range of marine services including engineers, riggers and a chandlery. The yard will remain an open yard allowing work by visiting engineers and crafts people.

The bridge accessing the area has been strengthened to take the weight of large boat delivery vehicles.

A 75 ton travel hoist is planned.

Pontoon changes will involve new piling. Pile driving is only permitted during the period Oct 1 - Mar 31st for environmental reasons. Work on pontoons is planned to take place over winter 2019 - 20 and will be carried out in 5 sections to keep berths available as much as possible. It may be necessary to complete the following winter.

Drystack provision for RIBs etc will become available in 18months - 2 years.

There will be a dry storage provision for boats of up to 26 feet LOA.

AD raised the issue of trailer storage. Ways of providing this are to be considered.

Next meeting for update, Feb 2019.