

ASSOCIATION OF DART RIVER USER CLUBS

MINUTES OF CIRCULATED E- MEETING, March 2020

Chair Anne Davis.

In view of the COVID - 19 crisis this meeting was held by email, circulating an agenda and reports to all members.

Members circulated and the organisations they represent: Marion Adams and Ian Adams TBA; Mike Brown, Dartmouth Yacht Club; Norman Doige, RDYC; Neil Strevens, Dart Sailability; Richard Balfry, DLBOA; Jordan Hall, Dart Totnes Rowing Club; Steven Black, Dittisham SC; Jo Langmead, DARC; Kevin Pyne, Dartmouth Gig Club; Copied in; Harbourmaster Mark Cooper, Board Member John Ellwood.

Agenda, Reports ; input from ADRUC members **in bold**:

1. Minutes of Autumn 2019 meeting attached (Att 2). Please let me have any comments to allow me to sign these off. **No input received, therefore signed off.**

2. Matters Arising:

--Note in Minutes: RB to liaise with the Harbour Office about a Leisure Boat Owners' website page. Has there been any progress on this?

3. Chair's report:

The current COVID 19 crisis puts most things on the back burner, but looking forward to a time— hopefully later this season— when we can start out again I would urge ADRUC members to watch for opportunities safely to encourage life on the river. Mayflower 400 is a case in point and it's good to receive an email about this today, see attachment 2. Mayflower 400.

Items for email discussion:

4. Email to AD from Neil Hockaday received 27.1.20.

"Many thanks for progressing the accessibility issue. Of interest, DHNA is now exploring the development of a ramp at the Double Steps in Dartmouth, as this was one of the listed items of action.

" I would still welcome any input from ADRUC members on the accessibility

document which has now been updated to incorporate input from the other stakeholder groups and DHNA. For the sake of completeness I attach the latest version". (See attachment 2, Disabled Access Dart Sailability). **Input from Commodore TBA: the TBA has a slipway for access, it is steep but can be used with a carer, or 2, having control of the wheelchair.**

5. Harbourmaster's General Update:

Dart Harbour is prepared for the summer season. Progress with mooring maintenance is on schedule and invoices have been dispatched for 2020/21 mooring charges and harbour dues. The first ship visit has been conducted but involved a cruise ship that had operated around the UK for 2 weeks before visiting. The impact of the covid virus on both staff and visitors/river activity will be assessed but could be significant. Staff are receiving advice based on government advice and direction. Customers are being encouraged to deal with the office via email or telephone rather than visiting the office in person. We are looking at options to reduce the risk to water taxis staff and would ask passengers to bring the right change and to stamp their own tickets in order to reduce the need for contact with staff.

Consultation: We have gathered responses to our announcement and public meeting about improving access to the embankment in Dartmouth. There were a couple of questions about the exact location of the potential development but otherwise unanimous support for the design brief and improvements which include provision of disabled access and improved safety. Once the feedback is fully analysed this will be passed out and work will begin on design concepts. Further opportunities for input and feedback on concepts will be announced so keep an eye on the website, emails and social media. Consideration could be given to how to submit feedback from clubs/organisations and ADRUC as a whole (rather than just individual feedback).

Harbour Powers: Dart Harbour is applying for the powers to issue general directions (directions to river users) and has made an application to the marine management organization. Once the application has been processed there will be a period of public consultation. The MMO are moving quite slowly on this (they are involved in developing Covid advice). The period of public consultation will be 8 weeks long. At this stage we are not asking for specific powers. If we are granted the power of general directions we will still have to go through a process to gain consent for specific powers.

Moorings and Mooring Policy: The executive continue to work on mooring optimization by adjusting mooring size to better match the demand on waiting lists and this involves resizing berths and repositioning unused berths where this is allowed (see annex F of the mooring policy). I would ask members to take a look at annex F of the policy as we are asking the areas around the river to check that their sections are correct. This should involve stakeholders and councils reviewing the text and making sure it is what they want (and the advice is in line with their local/neighbourhood plans). The clubs could help by pushing the councils along and

making sure the debate takes place. If we receive no input then we will simply issue the old sections of policy. The mooring policy is under review this year and precise details of the engagement strategy is yet to be determined. I would expect ADRUC to be front and centre in any debate (along with the other stakeholder groups) and therefore feedback on suggested improvements are welcome. I am particularly interested in feedback from groups as this tends to be more balanced stakeholder input and avoids a customer with a single issue to improve his/her own lot. So far most of the individual comments go against group stakeholder demands and ask why we don't change the policy in a way which would benefit an individual (limit duration of time customers have a mooring from dart harbour, give prime moorings to specific categories of customer etc). So please come back with group views if possible. If we are going to further prioritise allocation of moorings this should be as a result of majority support.

Ideas for improvements including safety: As always I am keen to have any feedback or input on the desire for changes on the river. The last year has seen fewer changes than in my first 2 years as HM as the easiest stuff has already been done. We have been able to help a number of clubs with their ideas for improved access and safety (SGBA mill point pontoon and club moorings, TBA pontoon, RDYC (advice on moorings) and Dittisham (reorganization of running moorings TBC). I am keen to continue this work but do need ideas and thoughts from ADRUC, dart sailability and the clubs and river users.

6. Any other Business
NO AOB received

7. Date of next meeting
I will update ADRUC on this in due course.

No further items or input received. This will therefore be filed as the minutes for this meeting.

Anne Davis,
Chair, Association Dart River User Clubs.
April, 2020