

Dart Harbour Communities Group

Minutes of Meeting held 12th November 2019. At The Royal Castle Hotel, Dartmouth

<u>Present</u>	Mike Pearey (MP)	Ashprington PC (Chairman)
	Sue Pudduck (SP)	Secretary
	Graham Anderson (GA)	Dittisham
	Phil Charlesworth (PC)	Dartmouth & Kingswear Soc
	Mark Cooper (HM)	Dart Harbourmaster
	Julian Distin (JD)	DH Board Rep
	Becky Fry (BF)	Cornworthy
	Linda Maby (LM)	Clerk Cornworthy
	Lynne Maurer (LM)	Kingswear PC
	Nigel Mortimer (NM)	S.Devon AONB
	Ben Piper (BP)	Totnes
	S. Seeley (SS)	Ashprington PC
	Julian Williams (JW)	Stoke Gabriel
	Dr Ben King	Guest Speaker

<u>Apologies</u>	Rob Lyons (RL)	Dartmouth TC
	David Wells (DW)	Dartmouth
	Tim Bumby (TB)	National Trust
	James Dodd (JD)	DH Board rep

The Chairman welcomed new members to the group.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Agenda Item 1: (Matters arising)

Action All, ongoing – Support to DHCG: The Chair would like to encourage parishes to contribute to the agenda, feedback on activity or outcomes, or just report at the meetings their thoughts and observations. This engagement ensures that the group is fully representative, and can properly fulfil its' role within the Dart Harbour Trust Port organisation.

Action: Reporting Crime & Police liaison. Parishes are encouraged to join the Police online Councillor Advocate Scheme. For details visit <https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/take-part/councillor-advocate-scheme/>**Action:** Parishes and other representatives are encouraged their residents and members to report any water-based crime directly to DH, as well as to the police.

Agenda Item 3 (Dart Sailability).

Action: Feedback on the Dart Sailability paper is complete. SP to get feedback from them for JW on his "Classification – Zero" proposal.

Agenda Item 4 (Parishes):

Action: HM to provide to members the Dart Harbour standardised contribution to neighbourhood Planning.

Action: Neighbourhood Plans - Representatives are requested to make sure that their councils are aware of, and make reference to, the Dart Harbour Policies in Neighbourhood Plans.

Action: MP to establish which Govt Dept has responsibility for the tidal Harbourne river, (Bow Creek) within the MCZ. *(Note: to date no information on the management of the MCZ has been received)*

Agenda Item 5 (Environmental Projects):

Action: MP to discuss with Prof Hutchings, University of Plymouth, possible inclusion within already existing environmental river data measuring work.

Action on-going: HM to investigate energy saving strategies for DHNA.

Agenda Item 6 (DHNA):

Action: HM will meet with the Dartmouth Replacement Slipway Group.

Action: Reps please ensure their Parish Councils or organisations know that the draft Moorings Policy document will be out for consultation in Spring 2020.

Agenda Item 7 (AONB); Action On-going: NM still seeking volunteers for Pacific Oyster project.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Agenda Item 2 was brought forward.

Guest Speaker - Dr Ben King.

Dr Ben King is a United Nations accredited teacher of Climate Change (CC), one of a small but growing number UK-wide. He outlined how to achieve this accreditation through on-line courses, open to anyone. After gaining the qualification the teacher and their school has access to on-line resources: UK schools are currently signing up to www.educateglobal.org. In Italy, all schools already have a CC teacher and the UN's aim is to have CC teachers in all 200 UN countries.

Ben spoke of his experience teaching and collecting from pupils data regarding their opinions about CC, the importance they attach to it, and their assessment of their behaviours in relation to it.

He stressed the importance of delivering the subject using scientific fact rather than opinion: one recommended source of information Arctic sea ice loss is Zac Labe on twitter: <https://twitter.com/ZLabe>

In the discussion that followed, the group considered the predicted +4mm to +5mm per year rise in sea level, and the concern about tidal surge and weather events increasing in intensity and frequency due to the increased energy potential in the atmosphere. In the Dart watershed run-off is also a cause for disquiet.

There followed a wide-ranging discussion on the environmental impacts of modern life including population growth, plastics, transport, trees, river management and the built environment. The group recognise the need for change in human behaviours, and also hope that technology may help find some of the solutions.

Ben's slides are attached to the email

Minutes from meeting held 14th March 2019 were agreed.

Matters Arising

SHDC Recycling;

South Hams, now combined with West Devon, are still working on their new recycling policy.

Liaison with Police & Reporting crime on the Dart. MP

The Chair reported that the new Team Leader for the Dart Neighbourhood is Sgt David Cross. There is also a newly set up Councillor/advocate scheme.

<https://www.devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/take-part/councillor-advocate-scheme/>

If you need to contact the Dartmouth team direct you are welcome to use this link - Dartmouth@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

It is also important to report crimes to DH as they often have the bigger picture. DH have also had advice on preventing maritime crime and the latest gadgets available. This will be shared at the DHNA Annual Meeting.

Action: Representatives are encouraged to promote the Police Councillor Advocate Scheme to their Parish Councils.

Action: Representatives to encourage their residents to report any water – based crime directly to DH, as well as to the police.

Ash Die Back;

All Parishes should have received from Tracy Webb, SHDC Case Manager (Trees), information concerning landowners' responsibilities for all trees, including infected Ash. In case not the Secretary will send it out to you with these Minutes.

Action: Anybody requiring the SHDC "Ash Dieback Advice" to contact SP

All Tree Wardens should also have received a note from the Devon Ash Dieback Resilience Forum advertising two initial offers of free trees to parishes and organisations, jointly sponsored by the Woodland trust and Devon County Council, on a very short deadline (6 Jan!) so MP has emailed this to the various Climate Emergency groups.

Agenda Items

1. Report on the River Trip 25th Sept 2019, hosted by HM

There was a useful discussion on the condition of the river on the final straight to Totnes. The river is silting up and could be allowed to revert to a natural state. However, not dredging would impact on the tourist trade that benefits Totnes and the River Boat Company. BP and HM agreed to continue the discussion and investigate all available solutions.

The **HM** is restricted by the introduction of stricter dredging regulations. Disposal of the spoil remains a challenge although there was a suggestion that this could be used to raise the height of the banks. There was a question about whether the spoil would be sand, which certainly could be financially advantageous, or mud.

LM is happy to share their Kingswear environmentally friendly weed control recipe.

2. Guest speaker - Dr Ben King (covered above).

3. Dart Sailability (DS)

The group discussed the Dart Sailability paper, centred on the identified locations for universal access to the river. **JW** (Stoke Gabriel) had proposed that there should be a classification of "0" for zero accessibility, which the group thought sensible. **LM** (Kingswear) reported that the pontoon in Jubilee Creek had a ramp and a pole to aid boarding.

Action: Feedback on the DS paper complete. SP to get feedback from them for JW on the "Classification - Zero" proposal.

4. Parish Items

Cornworthy now has an Air Ambulance site. Ashprington is in process of establishing one.

Neighbourhood Planning.

Totnes: there is a reconvened Neighbourhood Planning group who are working well together and are optimistic about the production of a workable plan.

Dartmouth: PC reported that a decision had been taken to produce a NP but so far no meetings had taken place. It is possible that the survey data previously collected has been mislaid. Kingswear are meeting with Dartmouth in January to help start the planning process.

Kingswear have reached the consultation stage.

Stoke Gabriel reported that 6 out of 9 Councillors were newly elected and that there is now an employed Clerk in post, and they are starting to draft their Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

The representatives of Cornworthy, Ashprington and Dittisham agreed to investigate the potential of producing a joint NP; Dittisham (GA) kindly offered to lead.

The HM reiterated the importance of looking beyond land issues and linking Neighbourhood Plans with marine planning in order to provide robust evidence in planning cases, when required. HM reiterated that even a parish "Design Statement", while no longer an official document, is useful and will be used by the DHNA when giving expert. He offered to share data and advice that has already be compiled by DHNA to make the task easier for all.

Action: HM to provide to members the Dart Harbour standardised contribution to neighbourhood Planning.

Action: Neighbourhood Plans - Representatives are requested to make sure that their councils are aware of, and make reference to, the Dart Harbour Policies in Neighbourhood Plans.

Wildlife and Habitat

There have been several reports of interesting wildlife in the Dart Harbour area. Sighting of seal pups in one new area, kingfishers, muntjac deer and otters were reported.

Anti-social behaviour.

MP reported that 4x4's had driven along the river bed by The Waterman's Arms and had damaged the stepping-stones where the Public Footpath crosses the Harbourne river. It is believed that this area of tidal river is within the new MCZ. There was discussion as to whether the stepping stones were the responsibility of DCC Highways or the EA. Various solutions to prevent recurrence were suggested.

Action: Establishing which Govt Dept has responsibility the tidal Harbourne river: MP

5. Science/Environmental Projects

Following the last meeting, several project ideas had been submitted to University of Plymouth (UoP) but because of time constraints on staff, none had been taken forward. The group felt it was important to get some base line data on water quality, riverbed material and measurements of bank heights, etc. A solution to university staff reductions might be providing support for experiments already happening. This will be followed up with Prof Tom Hutchings. **Action: MP to discuss with Prof Hutchings UoP staff inclusion within already existing environmental river data measuring work**

It was also considered important that the DHNA looked at energy saving strategies such as water source heat pumps, LED lighting, thermal insulation at Hoodown. **Action on-going: HM to investigate energy saving strategies for DHNA.**

6. Dart Harbour Update; Dartmouth Slipway, Mooring Policy, MCZ.

Dartmouth Slipway.

The meeting was shown draft plans for the proposed replacement Dartmouth public slipway, for which there is still considerable detail to be finalised, including funding. The construction of the slip would affect the deep-water pontoon and it would require modification. The existing slipway is not fit for purpose but it is free and introducing charges might cause resentment in the community. If charges were introduced, SHDC would want a cut. The new slip would require traffic new traffic management infrastructure and there will need to be parking for trailers and cars. There are no planned changing facilities at present, however it would provide an excellent base for running regattas. Long term it might require DH to manage, clean and eventually replace so on-going funding could be an issue for DH. HM stated that there was a lot to address but he would take his concerns forward and meet with the Slipway Committee.

Action. HM to meet with Slipway Group.

Moorings Policy.

JD reported that the production of the Moorings Policy was slightly behind the timetable and the Board now had no available time till January. In previous versions, the river had been categorised in sections in the appendix, Dartmouth to Totnes. This will now be incorporated into the main policy. Since the initial production of Moorings Policies, there have been three versions. JD is now considering reverting to the format that was used in version 2.

The draft document should be out for consultation in early spring. JD is happy to talk to Councils after it is produced and he stressed the importance of communities being part of the decision making about the future use and appearance of the river.

Action; Reps please ensure their Parish Councils or organisations know that the draft Moorings Policy document will be out for consultation in the Spring.

MCZ.

Clarification about the governance of the up-river MCZ is still unavailable - mainly because of staffing focus on BREXIT.

Various

- The HM reported that there were fewer instances of speeding and 10 people had received final warning letters, but remains keen to receive reports and - ideally - photographic evidence of speeding vessels as promptly as possible after the event, so that his team can track down the offenders.
- There were also fewer pollution events but those that occurred had tended to be bigger.
- The DHNA will also deal with floating trees and any sightings should be reported to the Harbour Office
- Premier Marinas had carried out a scoping exercise regarding Universal Access.

- The HM had restricted the size of vessels allowed as far as Galpton down to 30 mtrs, which should not affect any commercial or private marine activity.
 - The Annual Meeting will be held in Dartmouth on 11th December.
- Anybody wishing to attend must book in.

7. AONB Report

- NM is still seeking volunteers for the Pacific Oyster project.
- Dart Estuary Forum meeting is to be held Tuesday 19th November at Totnes Boating Association
- Interpretation boards have been put up at Dittisham.
- There was discussion about the Sharpham reach salt marsh, and ongoing monitoring of the potential for erosion, and possible mitigation measures.

8. AoB

Expenses – agenda item postponed until the next meeting.

LM reported that she is now the Representative for all the South Devon AONB Parishes.

GA extended an invitation to all to the Devon Maritime Forum who are hosting the SW Coastal Change Conference 26th November at University of Plymouth (UoP) Coxside.

9. Date and venue of Next Meeting

The intention is to try and arrange with HM a late spring river trip.

For Information:

To contact any Parish/Town Clerk on river issues, full contact details are available on <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/contactyourparishclerk>

Minutes of this meeting are held on <https://www.dartharbour.org/about-dart-harbour/port-management/stakeholder-groups/>

Mike Pearey

Chairman

mikeandyo@gmail.com

01803 732629

The Govt Environmental Incident Hotline number 0800 807060

Annexe

Harbour Master's Annexe re Neighbourhood Plans and in put from DH

Happy to help with drafting a early section of marine related policies but think these are pretty clear already in Marine Plans (see extract mapped to DH strategy above and page 13 of the plan at the link). Using the marine plan is useful as I use this to support my consultation input and it would be useful to know of any local variance. Without neighbourhood plans I am left with reliance upon the marine plan and our strategic plan to support any arguments.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/726867/South_Marine_Plan_2018.pdf

Ben King's slides. Attached to e mail.