

Board

Minutes of a meeting on Monday 13 December 2021 at the Dartmouth Yacht Club, Dartmouth and remotely via Microsoft Teams

These minutes identify attendees by their given name and the first letter of their family name; abbreviate the role of Harbour Master and Chief Executive to HM; and refer to the Dart Harbour and Navigation Authority as Dart Harbour.

1. Administration

Attendance	11/10/2021	8/11/2021	13/12/2021
<i>Members</i>			
Mike Burden	✓	✓	✓
Tony Davis	✓	✓	✓
Tim Dewing	✓	✓	✓
Julian Distin	✓	✓	✓
James Dodd (Chair)	✓	✓	✓
John Ellwood	x	✓	✓
Melanie Lessels (Vice Chair)	✓	✓	✓
John Milsom	✓	✓	✓
<i>Clerk</i>			
William Lewis	✓	✓	✓
<i>Attendees</i>			
Rob Everitt (interim Deputy HM)	✓	✓	x
Joanna Poulton (new Member from 1/1/2022)	n/a	n/a	✓

Declaration of Members' interests	None
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Approval of Minutes	
Date of meeting	Approval
8/11/2021	✓
29/11/2021 (In Committee)	✓

Review of Actions Log	
As at (date)	Reviewed and updated
6/12/2021	✓

2. The Slipway Trust

James D introduced the work of the Slipway Trust and the question of Dart Harbour's support for the Trust's project to construct a new improved slipway adjacent to the Higher Ferry in Dartmouth, incepted about ten years ago.

Mike B declared an interest; he is the secretary and treasurer of the Trust. He participated in the discussion to assist with information.

Tim D provided historical background. In summary, ten or more years ago Dart Harbour indicated informally that it was willing to contribute £50,000 to the new slipway, which then would have been about 10% of the cost. Dart Harbour included funds in the budget for this purpose.

With the passage of time, the sum now required for the project is much higher. A reliable figure is not yet known but a rough present estimate is in the region of £3 million.

The Trust now asks Dart Harbour for £50,000 for the specific purpose of funding exploratory drilling to establish the required depth of piles in the riverbed. This will be key to the design of the slip way and a major factor in the overall cost / budget. The Trust does not yet have funding for construction of the slipway and cannot yet seek funding. To do so, it needs planning permission, a design, and a reliable budget. South Hams District Council is assisting with planning and is willing to provide land in its ownership for the project. The Duchy of Cornwall is also supportive.

The new slip way is likely to require Dart Harbour to remove nearby berths, thereby incurring costs and losing revenue, (though it should be possible to create replacement berths elsewhere).

The Trust envisages Dart Harbour taking over the ownership (tbc) and running of the slip way when the Trust has built it. This will be both an asset and a long-term liability (in terms of maintenance) for Dart Harbour, but also a source of income, depending on how its operation is monetised. The details of this are not yet known and, at this stage, there is no formal legal relationship between any of the parties involved.

The immediate issue for Members was whether Dart Harbour should fund the exploratory drilling, accepting there will be no short-term benefit and no certainty that the Trust will be able to raise the money required for the project. The project is likely to take years to come to fruition, in any event.

Having discussed various aspects of the issue Members agreed that the objectives of the Trust align to the objectives of Dart Harbour, particularly the objective of improving access to the river. Moreover, the Trust has the potential through its fund raising and organisational capabilities to bring considerable benefits to Dartmouth through this project. Accordingly, Members agreed that Dart Harbour will engage further with the Trust and that Dart Harbour can commit £50,000 for the purpose requested. Finance Committee will work out the basis upon and way in which Dart Harbour can deploy funds and will revert to the Board.

Action

Tim D and Joanna P agreed to lead Dart Harbour's engagement with the Trust. Tony D / Finance Committee will provide overall guidance and support and will report to the Board.

Date of and arrangements for next meeting	Monday 10 January 2021 @ 1830 at the Guildhall, Dartmouth
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