

Bridport Harbour Users Meeting – Monday 21 October 2019 - The Salt House 18:30

Present	
Ken Buchan (KB)	Head of Environment & Well being
James Radcliffe (JR)	Harbour Master
Ben Harvey (BH)	Assistant Harbour Master
Cllr Kate Wheller (KW)	Harbour Committee Chair
Cllr Sarah Williams (SW)	Harbour Committee Vice Chair
Cllr Mark Roberts (MR)	Harbour Committee Member
Jodie Hill (JH)	Senior Business Support Officer
Becky McGowan (BM)	Harbour Administrator for Lyme Regis and Bridport Harbours (Note Taker)

Notes of the meeting held at The Salt House, West Bay on Monday 21 October 2019 18:30

1. Welcome and Introductions	Action
JR welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.	
2. Apologies	
Apologies were received from: Yvonne Lester – Business Support Team leader	
3. Minutes of the previous meeting	
<p>No questions were raised from the user group following the previous meeting.</p> <p>JR explained the car parking at the end of West Bay road has been resolved; gates are now left open at all times.</p> <p>Dredging was delayed however the work was completed resulting in better depth in the outer harbour. JR explained there are discussions for a 3 year agreement to hire the contractor again to do the inner harbour using the same method. This would be a great time to work on ground chains.</p> <p>The boat lifter is a success; there is now more flexibility when vessels are taken in and out.</p>	
4. Harbour report, Updates	
<p>Works will begin for roughly two weeks at the end of November and two weeks at the end of December 2019 on installing the timber piles currently stored on the east pier.</p> <p>All events held except the regatta that was cancelled due to the weather, went well with positive feedback. No concerns were raised.</p> <p>The Harbour shop & vessel service is thriving and proved to be busy this season. JR advised to make bookings early for vessel servicing.</p> <p>The sector light at the top of the slipway is not used often. JR proposed removing it on agreement of the harbour users by application to Trinity House. JR explained that there are plenty of other navigation lights around the Harbour for use. Harbour users agreed.</p> <p>JH updated the Harbour users with changes to Harbour renewals for this year. Notice of these changes will be sent out to all mooring holders following the committee meeting at the beginning of December.</p>	JR

5. User representative's reports	
No reports.	
6. Future structure of the Harbour User Group	
<p>KB - Bridport, Lyme Regis and Weymouth Harbours are now together under one authority, Dorset Council. One Harbours Committee will oversee all three Harbours. Weymouth & Lyme Regis currently have representatives in their Consultative group such as fishing charters, mooring holders and other associations. It is proposed to formalise Bridport Harbour user group by appointing representatives for each user group which will be drafted in the near future. The new Consultative group will require a Chair. Harbour users were asked to think about the opportunity and to put forward their interest, responsibilities include producing of Harbour representative reports, meeting agendas and chairing the Harbour Consultative Group meetings with assistance of the Harbour Master. The Consultative Group reports will be presented and information shared amongst the group and Committee.</p> <p>Cllr KW explained that anything can be brought forward for discussion at the Harbour Committee meetings from how to create a plastic free sea, pontoons, refuelling at the harbour, Wi-Fi, parking etc. Nothing is off limits. The Committee would also like to hear any ideas that could improve the harbour. More information will be circulated in due course.</p>	
7. Any other business	
<p>Parking permit fees for Commercial Fishing are currently under review by the Harbour Committee. JR explained that parking permits will also be issued for display in vehicles next year.</p> <p>Pricing structures will remain independent and will not be amalgamated with Weymouth. Although all 3 Harbours are under one authority, they remain independent. Each Harbour will have its own cost centre and any income generated will go back to each Harbour to assist them in becoming self sufficient.</p> <p>The Harbour user group expressed concerns over a possible high price increase next season. JR advised any increase made will be as low as possible. Cllr KW explained that Harbours can not be subsidised by the council and fees will be set by Committee in order to assist the Harbour become self sufficient.</p> <p>It was proposed by a Harbour user to lower the rate of Harbour staff assistance to encourage new Harbour users. He explained that within the hour of assistance he had great advice and felt considerably more confident manoeuvring safely in the built up busy harbour however the price was high. JR responded with agreement and explained that the fees are being reviewed by Committee.</p> <p>There is up to a two year wait for customers currently on the waiting list.</p> <p>It was advised to speak with Town Council or the Highways Committee for concerns regarding parking in front of Kiosks.</p> <p>Harbour rules and regulations are under review.</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding Health & Safety. JR advised there is room for improvement when mooring vessels. Poorly moored vessels affect neighbouring vessel and users are encouraged to seek help from Harbour staff if unsure.</p>	

<p>Harbour user feels there are some vessels too big for the harbour and advised JR to look at a suitable size limit.</p> <p>Concern raised by Harbour user over waters running into the sea from the old refuse centre in Bothenhampton. Harbour user was asked to speak with Cllr MR and Cllr SW at the end of the meeting to discuss further.</p> <p>Compliments were given to the Harbour staff for their continued hard work and the tidiness of the Harbour.</p> <p>The meeting concluded 19:45</p>	JR
8. Date, time and venue of next meeting	
<p>To be arranged. Aiming for March – April before the new season begins. New Harbour representative chair to be elected.</p>	