

WATCHET HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 20th September, 14.00 – 15.30

Watchet Visitors Centre

Attendees: Cllr Peter Murphy (PM), Cllr Loretta Whetlor (LW), Jessica Kemmish (JK), Martin Stevens (MS), Steve Hughes (SH), Jessica Tyson (JT), Keith Badsey (KB), Steve Yeandle (SY), David Mainwaring (DM), Craig Butler (CB), John Richards (JR).

Action	Owner	Due Date
SH to check again with the Onion Collective regarding odours coming from drain covers.	SH	22/11/22
MS to raise the recommendation of the Committee that the duty holders for Watchet and Minehead Harbour receive training ahead of the next WHAC meeting to the Harbour Board at their next meeting.	MS	4/10/22
SH/CB to look at the damaged railing near the library and make it safe.	SH/CB	22/11/22
SH to check which areas are covered in the marina lease and feedback.	SH	22/11/22
SH to ask the relevant Council officer to look into lighting in the shelters on the esplanade not working.	SH	22/11/22
JK to arrange speed bump installation on East Quay.	JK	22/11/22
JK to add Accidents and Incidents as a standard agenda item.	JK	22/11/22

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Apologies	No apologies were received.
2. Minutes and Actions of the Last Meeting	LW raised that they had not been recorded as present in the previous minutes when in fact they were present at the meeting. A comment they were noted as saying was also inaccurate and needed to be amended to say that the bike racks were on the esplanade and the planters and benches on the East Wharf and that these were in the correct place.

	<p>It was raised by SY that the spelling of their name was incorrect in previous minutes and should be updated to Steve Yeandle in all places where mentioned.</p> <p>The committee agreed approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 21st June as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the changes raised being made.</p> <p>Previous actions: SH updated that following the action on drain covers from the previous meeting he had contacted the Onion Collective who had assured that there was not an issue. MS raised that this issue was only present at some times, usually after it had rained, but was persisting. SH to responded that he would check again with the Onion Collective. [ACTION]</p>
<p>3. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda</p>	<p>No matters were raised.</p>
<p>4. Port Marine Safety Code Matters</p>	<p>SH updated that Marc Lawrence had left his role with McCauseland's since the last Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee meeting. The relationship with McCauseland's was then ended. Since then, it was agreed with Sedgemoor District Council that Keith Badsey would fill the role of Harbour Master, with Jessica Tyson acting as his deputy, on a consultancy basis. The arrangement with Sedgemoor commenced at the start of September 2022.</p> <p>KB updated that progress was previously made on the Port Marine Safety Code when KB and JT had previously provided support to Watchet and Minehead Harbour but KB could not comment on the exact current position on progress against the Port Marine Safety Code due to not having only recently having taken up the post. Once the transition to the new unitary council occurred three ports would come under the control of the new Somerset Council. It was likely that the current designated person for Bridgwater port would also become the designated person for Watchet and Minehead ports as well once Local Government Reorganisation occurred.</p> <p>SH updated that significant work had been done on the Port Marine Safety Code but there remained work to do. The Executive of Somerset West and Taunton were the duty holder for the Port Marine Safety Code. SH was the</p>

	<p>designated person. The focus would be on ensuring that the set up for the new Somerset Council was correct.</p> <p>JT raised that there was online training available for duty holders which could be considered for the Executive.</p> <p>The Committee resolved to recommend to the Harbour Board that the duty holders for Watchet and Minehead Harbour receive training ahead of the next WHAC meeting. [ACTION]</p>
<p>5. Harbour Matters</p>	<p>CB provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lighthouse has been painted and should be completed by the end of the day. It was intended that the roof will be checked ahead of the scaffolding coming down. • The gate post on West Pier was damaged due to being hit by a vehicle. Western Fabrication have removed the damaged post so the gate can be opened and would be replacing the post to fix the gate. • The loose fender in the outer harbour was removed by Lynch's successfully. The wood had been saved so it can be reused in future. • The flagpoles at Watchet Harbour failed their LOLER certificate. A contractor will be coming to look at them to see if they can be fixed. • The railings along the East Pier are loose. The contractor is looking at solutions regarding this. • The lights and markers along the coast are all in good condition. • EX2 are going to be replacing the lighting heads on the lampposts on West Pier. • The bollards on East Beach Slipway were damaged whilst work was being conducted by a third-party organisation. The organisation will be repairing or replacing the bollards. <p>MS raised that a railing near the library had been twisted and come out of the fitting. SH/CB to look at this and make it safe. [ACTION]</p>
<p>6. Marina Matters.</p>	<p>SH provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH updated that the structure for the new Council was not yet confirmed and so an update could not yet be provided on the impact this would have in relation to harbour matters.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update had been provided to the Town Council on the marina lease. SH updated the committee on the marina lease and potential changes to it. <p>PM raised that the Committee did have an interest in the marina lease and so it would be beneficial to know details of any proposed changes. For example, the rights for car parking spaces being excluded from the lease. SH to check which areas are covered in the lease and feedback. ACTION.</p> <p>LW added that any development on the sites included on the lease would still have to apply for permission via the normal routes.</p> <p>SH updated that in relation to dredging for the outer harbour the Council had gone out to tender for dredging. This was still going through the procurement process, but dredging would hopefully commence in the next month.</p> <p>It was asked if this was water injection or plough-based dredging. SH updated that this would be water injection dredging.</p> <p>SH updated that the East Quay electrics works were now complete which had been a significant amount of work. There remained one pontoon where the electric supply had not been worked on but this would not be done at present as it was infrequently used.</p>
<p>7. AOB</p>	<p>LW raised the issue of lighting in the shelters on the esplanade not working. SH responded that he would ask the relevant Council officer to look into this matter. [ACTION]</p> <p>PM asked what had happened following the discussion about speeding on East Quay. SH reported that work on this was in process and that plastic speed bumps would be installed. JK was working on this and would continue to do so. [ACTION]</p> <p>JR updated that two sets of blue bike racks had been installed on the esplanade and that a third would shortly be installed.</p> <p>JR left the meeting at this point.</p>

	<p>KB raised that it would be useful to add a section on accidents and incidents within the agenda for the meeting as it was important for the Port Marine Safety Code that these were reported. DM updated that there had previously been an incident caused by a boat going against a red light almost colliding with a boat proceeding on a green light.</p> <p>JK to add Accidents and Incidents as a standard agenda item. [ACTION]</p> <p>MS raised that there were issues with people fishing off the Quay. PM suggested that this and the possibility of a by-law could be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
<p>8. Date of next Harbour Board meeting</p>	<p>Date of next Harbour Board meeting: Tuesday 4th October 2022 10.00 – 12.00 Microsoft Teams</p>
<p>9. Date, time & venue of next meeting</p>	<p>Date of next WHAC meeting: Tuesday 22nd November 2022 14.00 -15.30 Venue TBC</p>