

WATCHET HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 21st February, 2pm – 3:30pm

Watchet Visitor Centre

Attendees: Cllr Peter Murphy (PM) (Chair), Keith Badsey (KB), James Burnell (JB), Emily Glover (EG), Roger Hamm (RH), Jess Kemmish (JK), David Mainwaring (DM), Chris Odling-Smee (COS), Martin Stevens (MS), Jessica Tyson (JT), Cllr Loretta Whetlor (LW), Steve Yeandle (SY).

Apologies: Craig Butler (CB), John Richards (JR).

Note taker: Emily Glover

Action	Owner	Due Date
Ongoing conversations around the removal/disposal of the dredging pipe on the East Pier.	JK	06/06/23
EG to make the amendments to the previous two sets of minutes.	EG	06/06/23
JK to draft procedures for WHAC for review at the next meeting.	JK	06/06/23
JK to feedback to SWT colleagues the discussed solutions to people fishing off the East and West piers.	JK	06/06/23
EG to send WHAC member email addresses to CB to be added to the distribution list for Notices to Mariners.	EG	06/06/23
EG to add 'Harbour site visit for Duty Holders and Councillors' to the next agenda.	EG	06/06/23

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome, attendance and apologies	Craig Butler and John Richards sent their apologies. Roger Hamm attended as WACET representative.
2. Minutes and actions of the previous meeting	<u>22.11.22 minutes</u>

MS highlighted a revision needed in item 4 to correctly note that fishermen had been directing verbal abuse at boatowners.

26.01.23 minutes

PM suggested rephrasing a section in item 1 to better reflect the reason for the meeting. Members agreed to this change.

COS made the request to add two clarifying points in items 2 and 3. Members agreed to the additions.

PM raised that in item 4, the reason for JS's apology should be changed to not having followed up on September discussions around the marina lease. Members agreed to the suggested amendment.

Action: EG to make the above amendments to the previous two sets of minutes.

Previous actions

- COMPLETE: JK to liaise with SH regarding odours coming from the Onion Collective's drain covers. This has been raised with the Onion Collective. Any further issues should be reported directly to the OC.
- COMPLETE: JK to check whether CB has been in contact with anyone to fix damaged railing near the library. CB has provided a temporary fix for the railing and a more permanent solution will be sought.
- COMPLETE: JK to liaise with SH on what areas are covered in the marina lease.
- COMPLETE: JK to check whether lighting on the Esplanade has been fixed & report back.
- COMPLETE: JK to locate most recent version of the Marine Operations Manual and send to KB.
- COMPLETE: EG to ensure correct contact details are on the circulation list.
- COMPLETE: JK, SH & CB to discuss the potential installation of bollards to prevent vehicles driving up to the East Pier. This had been discussed and a decision taken not to install bollards at this time. Will continue to monitor and review going forward.
- ONGOING: JK to speak to SH and colleagues who deal with fly tipping to determine what can be done about the piece of metal on the East Pier and determine current owner. SWT had contacted the owner and looked at removal cost. COS added that the owner may be able keep the equipment in the marina. Suggestion was made

	<p>to issue a removal notice to the owner otherwise SWT would take ownership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ONGOING: JK and SH to discuss potential options for finalising the surfacing on the Easy Quay. No further action at this time. Revisit once the unitary council is in effect. <p><u>WHAC procedures</u></p> <p>PM asked whether SWT could consider drafting a set of procedures for WHAC members to follow and determine members' rights to go to the press. JK suggested basing the procedures off the Council's existing members' Code of Conduct. Members discussed creating a formalised complaints procedure. Action: JK to draft the procedures to review at the next WHAC meeting.</p> <p>Following a query from MS, PM confirmed members could provide a report of the WHAC meeting to their respective members prior to the minutes being approved.</p>
<p>3. Port Marine Safety Code Matters</p>	<p>KB provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duty Holder training has been completed. • The current Designated Person for the harbours was not fully appropriate as ideally the designated person should be independent of the running of the harbour. A new designated person would undertake this role from 01.04.23 for all four harbours of the new Somerset Council. • Trinity House annual inspection due the week commencing 01.03.23.
<p>4. Health and safety incidents</p>	<p>MS raised the on-going problem of people fishing off the West and East piers whilst boats are active. Discussion took place around the concerns to health and safety and the difficulty to enforce. It was determined that incidents occurred mainly over the weekend when there was no SWT Officer presence.</p> <p>Potential solutions were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing weekend enforcement. • Installing signage stating the piers were permissive access. • Creating some General Directions which could be used to restrict fishing. • Issuing press statements highlighting the safety concerns and that the Council is taking action to eliminate the problem. • Potential to enforce following review of the anti-social behaviour enforcement rules once the unitary council is in effect.

	<p>Action: JK to feedback to SWT colleagues on potential solutions.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to submit incident reports on SWT's website for any health and safety concerns they witness.</p>
<p>5. Harbour matters</p>	<p>JK provided the following update on behalf of CB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The railings on the West Pier had been successfully secured. • Key clamp barriers had been installed around the electric box on the East Quay to remove the trip hazard. • A new ladder was being designed for the East Pier in the Safe Haven, to be installed this financial year. • A Notice to Mariners was out for the port-side lights on the East Pier due to solar energy deficiency. JT and KB agreed the panel was positioned ineffectually. Continuing to monitor. DM asked for notices to be emailed to members. ACTION: EG to send WHAC member email addresses to CB to be added to the distribution list for Notices to Mariners. • Flood boards had not yet been needed this year, continuing to monitor weather conditions and tides. • Speed bumps were installed on the East Quay along with appropriate signage. MS added that drivers can swerve to avoid them. Continuing to monitor and will review at the next meeting. • CB and JT had been looking at installing a tidal board on the East Pier. <p><u>LGR update</u></p> <p>JK advised that WHAC would continue in its current form from 01.04.23. SWT would ensure there is officer presence at these meetings and members would be notified in advance of any staff changes.</p> <p>Stakeholder groups to be set up for Minehead and Bridgwater Harbours, which would feed into the Harbour Board. JT asked for suggestions on which groups to consider for membership in those meetings.</p>

<p>6. Marina matters</p>	<p>COS provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hydraulic gate had been repaired and was performing well. Continuing to monitor. • The fuel supply within the marina infrastructure had been addressed. • Dredging cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Dredging was concentrated at the western end of the harbour, however found that 30% of mud resettles in the east side. – Dredgers would depart week commencing 20.02.23 and return early April to continue on a double tide basis. In the interim, a crash pump system was being used to get to hard-to-reach areas. – Operating on the objective of the harbour being fully watered when the gate is closed by Spring (April/May). – The year objective is for a 1.5-2m depth at all births, avoiding getting to bedrock level due to potential damage to vessels should the gate fail. Surveys to be published regularly. <p>Discussion took place around optimal depths of the harbour and how to maintain/improve the hydraulic gate. MS warned that the remains of a rib boat were stuck in the mud. COS would look to remove the remains of the rib.</p> <p>JK advised that the Council's dredging budget for 23/24, had been reduced by £20,000 compared with 22/23 but dredging would still be carried out by the Council which was noted by members.</p> <p>MS raised that there were bolts sticking out on the West Pier from where a fender has been lost. JT advised that a full review of ports and harbours would take place following the unitary council and budgets would be collated.</p>
<p>7. Make-up of Committee</p>	<p>PM consulted the Watchet Harbour Revision Order (2000 Article 36) and raised that there was a vacancy available within the Advisory Committee. SWT had previously consulted parties who have an interest in the harbour, and this included the Onion Collective.</p> <p>Motion: Raised by PM. That members consider recommending the Onion Collective to SWT to be considered for membership in WHAC. Seconded by COS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JK advised that no opposition had been raised within SWT to this proposal. • DM highlighted that advisory committee members did not have decision making powers.

	<p>CARRIED - five for, one against, two abstained.</p> <p>SY clarified that his vote against was due to the lack of consideration for other groups who may wish to sit on WHAC rather than him being against the Onion Collective.</p> <p>COS raised that the Marine Group had a lack of confidence in JR as the representative of WACET on WHAC. COS feared that information from WHAC meetings was not being accurately passed on to WACET members and the wider community. This had led to the resignation of the Marine Group from WACET. COS asked whether another member of WACET could be considered to attend WHAC meetings. RH would inform JR of the request.</p>
8. AOB	<p>MS & JT discussed inviting Duty Holders and Councillors to visit the Harbours. ACTION: EG to add this item to the next agenda.</p>
9. Date of next Harbour Board meeting	<p>Tuesday 7th March 2023, 10am – 12pm. Microsoft Teams</p>
10. Date of next Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee meeting	<p>Tuesday 6th June, 2pm – 3:30pm. Watchet Visitor Centre to be confirmed.</p>