

Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee Minutes

Thursday 5th March 2020

Present: Craig Butler (CB), Sally D-M (SD), Jerry Gilmore (JG), Chris Hall (CH), Cllr Peter Murphy (PM), Martin Stevens (MS), Cllr Loretta Whetlor (LW), Steve Yeandle (SY).

1. Apologies:

Michelle Boobyer (MB), James Burnell (JB), Matt Driscoll (MD), David Mainwaring (DM)

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

4th December 2019 minutes were approved.

3. Matters arising.

An update on the wall repairs was provided by CH and referenced a report that will be going to Council at the end of the month. An explanation was provided as to why work was currently paused and what the next steps were. Clarity was given that design work on the East Quay wall was not forgotten but had naturally taken a back seat with the further failures at Splash Point.

4. Mud Group Update

Outer harbour dredging money has been approved and work is underway to establish the permissions necessary for the work to be undertaken.

JG has prepared the application for sampling and for the MMO licence itself.

An update was provided on the condition survey and the notice to repair issued by the council to the marina operator. It was made clear that the Council were taking a more robust stance and legal advice had been sought on the options available.

5. Harbour Board

There is a need to check that the Harbour Board minutes have been published as chair was unable to locate them on the website.

This has been checked and all the minutes that should be published are, the only ones not yet signed off are those from December 2019.

6. Harbour Matters (inc. Lighthouse, fishing stakes)

CB provided the following update:

- The condition of the lighthouse had been noted on Facebook. Some repairs are needed and there is concern that there may be lead paint within the layers. CH had received correspondence from the conservation society who are looking for a refurbishment programme and are willing to support this. SD added that the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) or the lottery may be sources of funding. Local authorities cannot bid for the AHF however CIC's and Town Councils can. CH and PM to progress the conversation.
- A number of fishing stakes have gone but have been replaced further out. JG suggested he explore the use of Harbour Directions to take action on these.
- General repairs had been undertaken in and around the harbour. Some concerns about the railings were raised by LW and they will be investigated.
- Brick seating sections on The Esplanade may have some loose bricks, CB to investigate and report as necessary.
- Flood boards have been placed on a number of occasions due to recent weather conditions.
- Slipway is planned to be jet washed imminently.
- Electrics on the pier have had to be isolated due to the failure of Splash Point wall and the wiring becoming exposed. A notice to mariners has been put in place for now and a works order raised to reconnect this on a temporary basis, pending the permanent repair.
- Some anti-social behaviour has been noted and this has been reported to the police. The signs will also be enhanced.

7. Marina Matters

Parking issues in and around the East Quay and Esplanade continue to cause a concern.

8. Port Marine Safety Code

Nothing to report.