

WATCHET HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 21st June 2022 14.00 – 16.00 at Watchet Visitors Centre

Attendees: Peter Murphy (PM), Craig Butler (CB), Matt Driscoll (MD), Roger Ham (RM) is representing in John Richards absence, Steve Hughes (SH), David Mainwaring (DM), Katie Marks (KM), Martin Stevens (MS), Cllr Loretta Whetlor (LW), Steve Yeandle (SY).

Agenda Item	Item detail/ Action	Owner
1. Apologies	James Burnell (JB), Rob Freemantle (RF), Marc Lawrence (ML), Chris Odling – Smee (COS), John Richards (JR), Jonathan Stevens (JS).	
2. Minutes and actions of last meeting	<p>Minutes & actions of last meeting on Tuesday 1st March 2022 were agreed as correct. All actions complete.</p> <p>The election of the new Chairman and representative on the Harbour Board took place.</p> <p>Cllr Peter Murphy was voted as Chair of Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Martin Stevens was voted at representative on the Harbour Board.</p>	
3. Harbour Updates	<p><u>Exercise Safe Haven</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SH reported that a Safe Haven exercise took place on Thursday 26th April 2022. This was a mock exercise to test if an accident happens in the Watchet Harbour, how the emergency services, local authority and public would react. It was successful and we are waiting for the debrief / report. Only the Emergency Services, and a couple of officers from the local authority knew so it was a true reaction. • MS and LW fed back that the exercise went extremely well. • MS highlighted the importance of these exercises, especially after the fire in Torquay & recent incident in a Florida Harbour and requested that these exercises take place more frequently. SY agreed and added that there was an accident in Watchet 	

	<p>Harbour many years ago where diesel was spilt in the Harbour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LW had taken photographs of the exercise. • MD added that from the mariner's point of view it was more of an inconvenience. The boat owners were co-operative. • MS suggested a first response centre be allocated in Watchet. PM commented that further discussion could take place once the debrief report was received. <p><u>Public event</u> Members discussed the public event and their concerns over an obstruction to the East Quay. The licence was discussed and it was confirmed that access to the boat yard was possible behind the new building. Members asked to see the risk assessment, with MS expressing concern that the Boat owners Association had to withdraw their support from the event as they were unable to review the risk assessment. Action: SH to contact the Onion Collective to request to see a copy of their risk assessment.</p> <p>SH and CB gave assurances that the event was properly licenced and that in an emergency, the audience could have been cleared if access was required to the East Pier or Quay.</p> <p>MS requested a review before future events in Watchet, to include Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT), local councillors, Cardiff Marina, WHAC and Harbour Board. Member concerns to be readdressed at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>East Quay access</u> Members discussed general vehicular access to the East Quay. The Committee recommended that the District Council ask the Onion Collective to reinstate the partial fence at the end of the site. Action: Steve Hughes to contact the Onion Collective, to request they reinstate the gate. Members discussed additional solutions to the issue. LW added that the bike racks on the esplanade and the planters and benches on the East Wharf were in the correct place.</p> <p><u>Port Marine Safety Code</u> CB provided an update in ML's absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The railings on the esplanade had been painted • The resurfacing of the West Pier had been completed and the slab on East Quay removed. • The lighthouse would be painted in August, exact date to be confirmed. 	<p>SH</p> <p>SH</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and safety signs warning the public of the unstable cliffs had been erected. • Minor repair to flag poles is required. <p>MD reported that the trailer park needed weeding. Action: CB to make an internal request for maintenance.</p> <p>SH informed members that outer harbour dredging would start in September or October, exact date to be confirmed.</p> <p>MS advised that the base of a lamp post on the East Pier needed repairing due to corrosion. Action: CB to inspect and request repairs if needed.</p> <p>LW highlighted that the contractors responsible for painting the railing have painted over the tape. Action: CB to organise the tape to be reinstated.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p>
4. Marina Matters	<p>MS notified members that there was water pooling on the East Quay and the heras fencing had been moved. Action: SH to organise some remedial work to stop the pooling.</p> <p>Action: CB to reposition the fencing.</p> <p>MD updated that dredging in the marina would start again late July, as the dredger was undergoing minor repairs.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>CB</p>
5. Matters raised by members/A OB	<p>Drain covers near the onion Collective building needed to be sealed. Action: SH to contact The Onion Collective to replace the drain covers.</p> <p>A statue of the goose that lived in the marina for years had been approved. It would be located next to the anchor. Awaiting an installation date.</p> <p>MD informed members that an air display would take place at the end of July. There would be an exclusion zone preventing anyone entering the area whilst the display is taking place.</p> <p>PM thanked the District Council for the works on the Esplanade and East Quay, including the Open Spaces Team. Action: SH to pass these thanks on.</p> <p>PM thanked KM for her work in Watchet and wished her well in the future.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>SH</p>
6. Date of next Harbour	<p>Tuesday 4th October 2022 10.00 – 12.00 Microsoft Teams</p>	

Board Meeting		
7. Date of next meeting	Tuesday 20 th September 2022 14.00 -16.00 Watchet Visitors Centre	