

Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday 27th September 2021 2:00 – 4 :00pm

Attendees: Peter Murphy (PM), James Burnell (JB), Rob Freemantle (RF), Steve Hughes (SH), Katie Marks (KM), Chris Odling – Smee (COS), Martin Stevens (MS), Cllr Whetlor (LW).

Agenda Item	Item detail/ Action	Owner
1. Apologies	Craig Butler (CB), Matt Driscoll (MD), Marc Lawrence (ML), David Mainwaring (DM), John Richards (JR), Steve Yeandle (SY).	
2. Minutes of last meeting	<p>The previous meeting minutes were agreed as correct.</p> <p>The group extended their thanks to Michelle Boobyer for her previous note taking.</p> <p>The Committee noted the promotion of officer Chris Hall of Somerset West and Taunton Council and wished him every success in the future. Members expressed their thanks for his support to the Committee and his diligence in addressing the mud issue in the marina and securing a new marina operator for the benefit of the town of Watchet.</p> <p>PM mentioned the ongoing monitoring of vehicles parking in Harbour Road.</p>	
3. Matters arising	None	
4. Port Marine Safety Code matters	CB & MD have attended and completed an Oil Spill training course.	
5. Harbour matters	<p>KM provided an update in CB Assistant Harbour Master's absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CB and MD have completed oil spill training to the MCA level 4 requirement. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CB had assisted with the East Quay wall repair by talking to the public about the work taking place, co-ordinating the generator/fuel deliveries and ensuring daily checks are carried out. • CM had not received any complaints regarding anglers causing an issue to marine traffic while fishing from the lighthouse. • The trailer park on the West Pier would be relined and managed as a trailer park only for launch vehicles. Public parking will not be permitted. • The smashed light on the West Pier had been logged for repair. <p>KM (SWT Project Manager) provided an update on the East Quay wall repair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work has been completed. • There are a couple of outstanding actions, a small section of road needs to be constructed by the wall, following which the sheet piles will be cut to road level and railings completed. • A new ladder will be installed in the next couple of weeks on the East Quay to replace the old one. <p>MS suggested demountable lampposts to avoid vandalism. Action: MS to pass this information to CB MS suggested some cathodic protection for the sheet piles to extend lifespan.</p> <p>LW had been notified by a member of public of a gap in the Marina gates which may cause a health and safety issue. Action: LW to raise with the appropriate officers for resolution.</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>LW</p>
6. Marina Matters	<p>COS provided an update on the Marina:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dredging in the marina would continue next week. The dredger had been in Cardiff completing some commercial work. The plan on return was to concentrate dredging on the main channels followed by the western side of the Marina. • Harbour occupancy – the statistics from May to date showed that every 1 in 10 days there was a new berth holder. • There had been a massive increase in visitors. Bristol Boatowners rally brought in 38 boats over the May Bank holiday. • There are 8 permanent berth holders arriving next month. <p>In 2022 the plan would be to operate on a first come first served basis or to request a deposit.</p>	

	Repairs to the fingers and purchase of additional fingers is taking place to ensure the layout of the marina caters for the maximum capacity of boats.	
7. AOB	<p>Action: COS to arrange removal of Dredgers with owner.</p> <p>MS mentioned that now the Midas gates have been removed, traffic appears to be driving and parking by Splash point, a concern also shared by LW. Action: SH is aware and is acting.</p> <p>The Committee usually meets two weeks before the Harbour Board meeting. Online meetings have been in place for some time now, but the Committee may wish to consider a return to meeting in person as not everyone has access to Teams/Zoom. Hybrid meetings could take place so members further away could still attend online. The Committee can return to meeting in the Visitor Centre under the arrangement with Watchet Town Council.</p> <p>The next Harbour Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 11th January 2022.</p>	<p>COS</p> <p>SH</p>
8. Date of next meeting	Date of next meeting: Monday 13 th December 2021 at 2:00pm in Watchet Visitor Centre – subject to confirmation.	