

**WATCHET HARBOUR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Minutes Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 14.00 – 16.00**

Present: Cllr P Murphy, M Boobyer – (Admin support), C Butler, Cllr Whetlor,  
K Marks, M Stephens, R Freemantle, M Lawrence, C Hall, J Brunel, S Yandle,  
C Odling-Smee J Richards joined at 14.20

Apologies: None

Agenda Item	Item detail/ Action	Owner	Achieve by
	<p>Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apologies/Introductions</li> <li>2. Minutes/review actions of last meeting</li> <li>3. Updates</li> <li>4. AOB</li> <li>5. Date of next meeting</li> </ol>		
Item 1	Apologies: No		
Item 2	<p>Minutes/review of last meeting,</p> <p>Amendments required in section 3 spelling mistakes</p> <p>M Stevens &amp; Cllr Whetlor approved the minutes of previous meeting on Fri 11.01.21.</p> <p>WHAC The members introduced themselves to Chris Odling Smee the new Marina Operator and Rob Mantle the Chairman welcomed them to the board.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>All</p>	
Item 3	<p><b>ML Port Marina Safety Code – Update</b></p> <p>Has a Teams meeting with MCA regarding an oil spill contingency plan and now organising a meeting with CH, SH, CB and RF to put together a plan that is suitable for all parties and will submit for approval with the MCA in due course.</p>	ML	

	<p>We still need a duty holder and arranging a meeting with the new Marina Operator in due course to find a solution.</p> <p>We have been aware that we needed a duty holder for some time we thought we found a solution however this did not come to fruition and we will work closely with the new marina operator on both these issues.</p> <p><b>C Butler – Update</b> A lot of repairs has been completed in Watchet including the repair to the Lighthouse door though the repairs to the esplanade railings has been put on hold until the next financial year.</p> <p>The new solar light has been installed and set correctly. There was also a problem with a soak away drain at west pier trailer park this has now has been resolved.</p> <p>The no fishing signs across the harbour entrance has been put up so this will help stop accidents or damage to vessels.</p> <p>A light on the West Pier has been vandalised luckily an electrician from the depot was working in the area, a member of the public brought it to his attention and he made it safe. It has been suggested we replace them with more sturdy robust lighting system maybe dismountable column's and will bring up at the next HB meeting.</p> <p>There was an incident in Watchet Marina, a house boat had a party whereby they let off a flare and the police were called, 3 people were issued penalty notices from breaking COVID rules and they are looking to prosecute about releasing the flare and have asked support from SWT.</p> <p>We need to take legal advice before supporting the any prosecution as need to know if as a we prosecute or the police before we risk the naming and shaming so just need clarify and I will report back when CH knows.</p> <p><b>Marina matters – Update</b> Peter Murphy, welcomed the new Marina operators again to the WHAC meeting they are new Marina Operators from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.</p>	<p>ML</p> <p>CH</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CH</p> <p>PM</p>	
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**Introduction of the Mariner Operator-  
Chris Odling Smee – Udate**

Pleased to be taking over as the new Marina Operator from 1<sup>st</sup> April and looking forward to starting work. They have published a programme of works and the initially will be starting the dredging of the Inner Harbour and renovating the pontoons.

In addition to the dredging and pontoons we have a 3 stage plan over the summer.

- 1). Our fundamental object is to have an adequate depth of water in the mariner by October. This will involve measuring the impound levels with the gates in the up position so that vessels can operate in and out of the harbour.
- 2). The harbour must comply with the H&S audit standards and will be inspecting everything and will have the method statements in place by the October.
- 3). All our sites are CHAS registered this is a high H&S standard which is often applicable to top end construction sites and our aim is for the mariner to be CHAS accredited in line with all our other mariners again by October.

There is a lot of work to do, Rob Freemantle, The Marina Group Operational Director will be responsible to deliver the programme and he will also be overseeing the integration of the 4 employees that we have taken on the books starting on the 1<sup>st</sup> April.

**Timetable of works**

We have published a programme of works and happy for them to be sent to the WHAC members we have lot of work to do unfortunately will not be able to start the dredging of the inner harbour until May at the earliest as our dredging vessel is committed to other work and we are mindful of all the other works being done including repair to the East Quay wall.

The new marina operator will be located in what was the old office they will be available to answer any questions from the boat owners or members of the public we are open and transparent so welcome the interest.

PM thanked Chris for the report and very pleased that Watchet Mariner is moving forward in a positive way.

COS

PM

	<p>Action MB to send programme of works to the WHAC members.</p> <p>SWT also have an open and transparent relationship with the marina operators and happy for the plan to be circulated and welcome any questions from members of the public.</p>	CH	
Item 4	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Cllr LW Please ensure that the 2 ward councillors are kept up to date with the progress so they can also answer any questions too.</p> <p>Mariner Operators will send regular updates to Cllrs and keep the WHAC group updates we also put all the information on our website.</p> <p>The boat owners are concerned about how they will get their boats in and out of the mariner to carry out repairs during the East Quay Wall repair?</p> <p>Kate Marks is leading on this project and has already started communicating our intentions. A contractor has been identified and within budget, the work will be carried out from a floating pontoon there will be noise disruption but unfortunately we cannot avoid this as this work is essential.</p> <p>Complaint from member of the public about the large signs that have appeared on the esplanade it looks cluttered and untidy and seems unnecessary.</p> <p>These are a standard signs, replacing like for like we have had issues in other harbours of slips and falls so unfortunately these are standard practice in all the mariners.</p> <p>The signage looks great the harbour has been in decline for many years it is nice at last to see things progressing and hope the Watchet community appreciates the work and resolve the council have shown and it is very positive news.</p> <p>The chairman thanked the District Council and be commended for their resolve he also welcomed the new marina operator to Watchet and look forward to a bright future.</p> <p>MS has requested we look into getting the lines painted around the ancient mariner and possibly send a copy of the poem from the ancient mariner to the Marina Operators.</p>	<p>Cllr LW</p> <p>COS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>CH</p> <p>JR</p> <p>COS</p> <p>SY</p> <p>PM</p> <p>MS</p>	

	<p>And a member of the public had a copy of the minutes from the last meeting before anyone had chance to proof read.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded the committee that the minutes are a confidential document until approved at the following meeting and then published.</p>	PM	
Item 5	<p>Next Date of next meeting: Mon 21<sup>st</sup> June at 14.00</p> <p>Thanked everyone for attending the meeting</p>		