

West Somerset Council Harbour Board, (WSCHB)

24 April 2017 – Meeting Minutes

Attendees	Cllr Martin Dewdney, (MD); Keith Richards, (KR); Capt. Keith Badsey, (CF Spencer), (KB); Craig Butler, (CB); Cllr Peter Murphy, (PM); Cllr Rosemary Woods, (RW); Natalie Green, (NG); Cllr Jean Parbrook, (JP); Cllr Terry Venner, (TV); Martin Stevens, ((WHAC), MS);
Apologies	Chris Hall, (WSC), (CH); Cllr Chris Morgan, (CM); Cllr Mandy Chilcott, (MC);

Item	Discussion Points	Action by
1.	We go around the table and introduce ourselves	All
2.	Minutes from previous meeting; Noted and agreed	
3.	Matters Arising: (Previous Meeting, keep items number from that meeting)	
3.1	None	All
4.	<p>Assistant Harbour Master operational update; CB: Gives an overview of the Harbour day to day operations. Major concerns with the fish stakes across the harbours. MS: I don't think we have the right to remove the poles this is an IFCA, (inshore fisheries and conservation authorities) responsibility. CKB: The Local Harbour Authority, in this case WSC have the right to remove anything which interferes with navigation into a port/harbour. JP: What are the stakes for and are they dangerous? MS: Basically to catch fish. CB: The stakes at Minehead Harbour are moving toward the Harbour from the right. The process is for catching fish to feed you and your family; it is illegal to sell the fish you catch as the nets are indiscriminate and catch all fish. MS: The use of this seems to be spreading. CKB: In the interests of navigation safety the Council must issue a notice to Mariners. CB: Representatives from IFCA are visiting the Harbour fishery this month, I will see if they can look at this issue. MD: Harras Fencing has been placed across the slipway at Blue Anchor, Keith to give an update KR: The Council have had to close off the Slipway at the East End of Blue Anchor due to the unmanageable risk to public safety. The Council have not taken this step without careful consideration. In addition, the Council have commissioned a report into the condition of the sea wall in this area and are actively investigating who owns this section of the coast. The Council will continue to regularly visit the area to observe and monitor. KR: The Council have been advised the gabions which are on the east of the Blue Anchor car park will be removed before the summer – no dates have been confirmed.</p>	CB
5.	<p>Off-Site Harbour Master operational update; KCB: We are getting there with regards to the Port Marine Code, the risk assessments for both Watchet Harbour is almost ready and Minehead Harbour's is now complete. MS: Does Watchet Harbour's include the power for the lighthouse as there are concerns as there have been a number of power cuts?</p>	CKB

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	<p>CKB: The power and lighting for the lighthouse sits with Trinity House however, the expectation would be for the Council to regularly check the electricity feed/supply. In Bridgwater most of the lights are powered by solar energy.</p> <p>MS: Is there enough signage up in the Harbour regarding swimming and tombstoning when vessels enter port?</p> <p>CKB: This is covered in the code or by the Health and Safety manual. Vessels should always sound their horn when entering the Harbour as best practise.</p> <p>NG: Do we need timescales for this?</p> <p>CKB: This week hopefully; these will be sent to CH for approval.</p> <p>CKB: Concerning the mud issue should the Board be looking at the mechanisms where not put in place at the creation of the Marina? This should not be looked at as a capital dredge, but it should be viewed as a maintenance dredge.</p> <p>RW: Are the Council planning to dredge the outer Harbour at Watchet this year?</p> <p>MD: The simple answer is no; the Council have no reason to do so.</p> <p>CKB: I have issues a notice to mariners concerning the tree which has become stuck in the entrance to the Harbour at Watchet and to the shingle ridge build-up at Minehead Harbour. There is also a need to place tide gauges up in both Harbours so users can gage the tide levels, given in datum and in the correct areas.</p>	
6.	<p>Proposed visits of large passenger visits to West Somerset Harbours Summer 2017;</p> <p>MD: the Balmoral vessel is due to visit our Harbours as follows; Watchet, 29 July, 15 August; 30 August. Minehead, 26 July; 01 August; 21 August; 26 August. The Waverly is due to visit Minehead on 02 and 04 September.</p>	MD
7.	<p>Watchet Harbour Risk assessment;</p> <p>Copies handed out at meeting for the Board members by CKB.</p> <p>MS: There are no considerations for the harbour navigation aids.</p> <p>KCB: This sits with Trinity House which inspect the navigation aids on a regular basis. No other comments from Board Members...</p>	CKB
8.	<p>Any other Business;</p>	
8.1	<p>MS: Gives a brief update from the WHAC, (Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee). MUD in Watchet Harbour was the main concern raised;</p> <p>There is some concern at the build-up of mud in the outer harbour however, both CB and CKB feel there is no noticeable difference from pictures taken over the past years.</p> <p>MS: the Marina Operator has been in discussions with a MUD expert to look at what can be done to alleviate the continuing concerns with and build-up of the Mud in the Marina and outer Harbour. Funding is an issue, and a schedule of clearance is needed.</p> <p>JP: The Bristol Channel is an estuary and as such is full of debris and sediments, so why would anybody give monies to clear mud; is this not for the operator to finance.</p> <p>PM: The Marina Operator should have a sustainable maintenance programme in place; could West Somerset Council take out a load at a reasonable rate to buy the equipment required and charge the Marina Operator for its use?</p> <p>MD: The Council should wait to see what the Marina Operator's expert advises prior to making any recommendations.</p>	
9.	<p>Time and Date of next WSCHB Meeting;</p> <p>Monday 18 September 2017 at 10:00am</p>	
10.	<p>Calendar dates purposed for future WSCHB Meetings;</p> <p>Monday 11 December 2017</p> <p>Monday 11 March 2018</p> <p>Monday 11 June 2018</p>	

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End of meeting...

Harbour Board:

Voting Members

- **Chairman** – Portfolio Holder for the Environment, *Cllr Martin Dewdney*
- **3 Elected Members** – (Cross Party) *Cllr Jean Parbrook*, (Minehead) *Cllr Rosemary Woods*, (Watchet), and *Cllr Terry Venner*, (Minehead)

Non-Voting Members

- **Assistant Harbour Master & Off Site Harbour Master** – *Craig Butler* and *Capt. Keith Badsey*, (CF Spencer)
- **Designated Person**, (Independent) *Natalie Green*
- **Duty Holder** – (2 members of the Cabinet) *Cllr Chris Morgan* and *Cllr Mandy Chilcott*
- **Officer Representation** – *Chris Hall* and *Keith Richards*, (minutes)
- **Minehead Town Council Representative** – *Cllr Jean Parbrook MCT*
- **Watchet Town Council Representative** – *Cllr Peter Murphy WTC*
- **Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee Representative, (WHAC)** – *Martin Stevens*