

**Harbour Board Meeting Wed 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 10.00 -12.00**

**Present:**

Cllr A Sully (Cllr S), Michele Boobyer (MB), Craig Butler (CB), Martin Stevens (MS), Cllr Murphy (PM), Cllr A Hadley (Cllr H), Steve Hughes (SH). Cllr Whetlor (Cllr W)

Agenda Item	Item detail/ Action	Owner	Achieve by
	<p>Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apologies</li> <li>2. Agree minutes &amp; review actions of last meeting</li> <li>3. Updates</li> <li>4. Matters Arising</li> <li>5. AOB</li> <li>6. Date &amp; Time of next meeting</li> </ol>		
<b>Item 1</b>	Apologies from Cllr D Darch (Cllr D), Cllr Venner, (Cllr V), J Kemmish (JM), Cllr Kravis (Cllr K)		
<b>Item 2</b>	<p>Cllr Sully, welcomed everyone to the meeting requested if they have any questions raise their hand via teams.</p> <p>Michele informed the members that the meeting is recording and the protocols.</p> <p>The previous meetings minutes were agreed to be true Martin Stevens proposed and Cllr Whetlor seconded.</p> <p>All actions from the previous meeting were agreed as completed.</p>	<p>Cllr S</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MS &amp; Cllr W</p> <p>Cllr S</p>	
<b>Item 3</b>	<p><b>Updates- Craig Butler -</b></p> <p>The Waverly will not visit Watchet this year, due to costs and staffing issues they will review and plan in for 2023.</p> <p>Craig continues to carry out the weekly navigation safety checks and all repairs are completed or planned in.</p> <p>The painting of the Watchet lighthouse is planned to start in September. The contractor will inspect the condition of roof at the same time. There will be scaffolding around the lighthouse</p>	<p>CB</p>	

	<p>and it will be shrouded to avoid contamination or debris falling into the water. At this stage it's unsure how long the work will take.</p> <p>Craig is liaising with Keith Bagley (Harbour Master) and Jessica Tyson (Assistant Harbour Master), from Bridgwater, they visited each other's Harbours and building a good rapport / relationship in readiness for LGR in 2023, it is very positive, and they are all looking forward to working together.</p> <p>Cllr Sully thanked Craig for taking the initiative, he endorsed the importance of building relationships between the councils as this will help with LGR next and there will only one Harbour Board for the whole of Somerset in the future.</p> <p>The revenue for mooring fees has increased from last year, there are 11 additional commercial vessels and 40 private leisure craft. Income is currently £17,200, the target is £18,000 by the end of the season, it is achievable. The Harbour is near to capacity and have many more on the waiting list, it is all very positive &amp; good news.</p> <p>Martin Stevens requested an update on the electrical works in East Quay.</p> <p>Craig gave an update on behalf of Jessica Kemmish.</p> <p>The electrical works has started, and groundworks finished yesterday, the electric is expected to be switched on, on Monday or Tuesday next week at the latest. The contractors will remain on site for a couple of weeks to finish off the remainder of the work.</p> <p>The distribution unit on the generator was stolen early hours of Saturday morning, it caused a power cut, Craig reported it to the out of hours team, unfortunately it could not be rectified until as they couldn't source the part and was reconnected on the Monday.</p> <p>Cllr Whetlor requested an update from an action on the previous Harbour Board minutes, this was to replace the cable ties on the safety gates on East Quay, it needs to have a robust and mechanism at present is unsafe.</p> <p>Craig completed the action; the spring locking system was tightened; a bungee cord and a light cable tie was fitted. Craig advised to remove the safety gate and ladder as not required.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>Cllr S</p> <p>CB</p> <p>MS</p> <p>CB</p> <p>CB</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>CB</p>	
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	<p>A member from the Health &amp; Safety visited the site and is happy with the repair.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Craig to request estimates for a replacement safety gate or to remove the &amp; ladder.</p> <p>Cllr Sully is keen to have the gate resolved by next HB meeting.</p> <p><b>Steve Hughes-</b> Watchet: the hydraulics on the Harbour gates have been repaired.</p> <p>Marc Lawrence, Harbour Master has resigned from Mcausland, at short notice, Marc offered to continue as Harbour Master with new his company however he withdrew the offer soon afterwards saying “that it was unattainable”</p> <p>Captain Ian Dunkley has been appointed as the new Harbour Master and is very experienced, Steve Hughes spoke briefly to Ian before the Harbour Board meeting today and will arrange to meet in due course and will invite him to the HB meetings.</p> <p>McCausland’s will remain as Harbour contractor for SWT until March 2023.</p> <p>There are rumours going around that The Marina Group are in financial difficulty. Steve contacted the company and they assured him that it is business as usual and the claims are unfounded, he added that they did have a problem obtaining fuel, but this was quickly resolved and expecting a delivery any day. And the dredger that was falsely reported as grounded were also untrue because it is working another location and will be return to Watchet in the Autumn.</p> <p>Steve made it clear that the rumours are untrue, and the reporter of the Western Free Press should have checked the facts from The Marina Group before printing it in the newspaper, causing a lot of uncertainty. The Marina Group is a lucrative business, it has just secured the finance to install a large d-leg pontoon in the Marina and invested in a new, large dredger so important we quash the rumours.</p> <p>The contractor that painted the railings on the esplanade in Watchet needs to revisit as they have missed a bit, Steve will contact them to arrange for them to completed.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>Cllr S</p> <p>SH</p>	
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	<p>There are a couple of outstanding repairs that need to be addressed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The lights on West Pier that was washed away by Storm Eunice earlier this year still need to be replaced</li> <li>2. And the upper gate to the boat park was damaged by a turning vehicle need to be repaired or replaced.</li> </ol> <p>Martin contacted The Marina Group about the rumours about the Marina Group, he has the same response as Steve and stating that they had just invested in a large dredger, they plan to use it in Watchet outer harbour later this year, the boat owners are happy with Martin's feedback.</p> <p>The old dredger belonging to the previous Marina Operator has been removed from the boat yard and legal action is being taken to remove the 2<sup>nd</sup> dredger.</p> <p>Martin expressed concern about vehicles driving &amp; parking on East Quay, last Sunday, The Onion Collective organised an activity, whereby cars were parked everywhere causing a hazard, this has been discussed at previous Harbour Board meetings and nothings been done it needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency before an accident happens.</p> <p>Martin suggested a gate or some sort of barrier alloying authorised vehicle access.</p> <p>It has been discussed at pervious Harbour Board meetings, there needs to be a resolution, Cllr Sully suggested setting up a small working group to come up with ideas and a plan, this should involve Cllr Murphy, Cllr Whetlor &amp; Steve Hughes</p> <p>There has also been several discussions at previous, WHAC for over 9 months and endorses Martin &amp; Loretta request that urgent action needs to be taken and Cllr Murphy is happy to be part of a working group.</p> <p>Cllr S suggested speaking to Chris Hall from SWT and find how we can move this forward.</p> <p>Steve rejected the request as it would only transfer to him responsible anyway and suggested he arrange a meet with Cllr Sully to discuss further.</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>MS</p> <p>Cllr A</p> <p>Cllr M</p> <p>Cllr S</p> <p>SH</p>	
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	<p><b>Action</b> Cllr Sully will organise a meeting with Steve Hughes at a convenient time to discuss the vehicle problem on East Quay.</p> <p>Cllr Whetlor also endorsed Cllr Murphy and Martin Stevens concerns about vehicles on East Quay and suggested that someone from SWT visit Watchet when an event is happening to witness the problems.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Cllr Sully, Cllr Whetlor, Craig Butler, Steve Hughes, Cllr Murphy arrange to meet to set up a working group to resolve the parking problems on East Quay Watchet.</p> <p>Cllr Whetlor added that it was part of the new build planning conditions that the partial gate that was removed by Midas was reinstalled on completion and that hasn't happened and is the Onion Collective responsibility to reinstall it.</p> <p><b>ACTION</b> Steve Hughes will check the New Build planning application to see if there were conditions to reinstall the partial gate, and he will use planning enforcement if necessary.</p> <p>Cllr Whetlor raised the point that The Onion Collection should have contingency funds for any snagging or problems.</p> <p>Steve has a meeting with The Onion Collective and will raise about the reinstallation of the partial gate.</p> <p>Martin informed the board that The Marina Group plan to develop the boat yard and suggested they should have a representative on the working group as the vehicle.</p> <p>Cllr Whetlor informed the members that new Seating and planters have been installed on East Quay.</p> <p>An additional bin has been put near the new seating area and IG Verdi has agreed to empty the rubbish frequently.</p> <p>Cllr Whetlor has requested that a small sign is put up in on the bicycle shed to stop motorcyclist parking there.</p> <p>Craig warned that careful consideration must be taken when putting in bins on the any pier as they are often damaged or washed away by the tide causing damage/contamination.</p> <p>Steve Hughes informed the Harbour Board that District Council is only responsible for the Esplanade, there are no funds for the</p>	<p>Cllr S</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>SH</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>SH</p> <p>MS</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>Cllr W</p> <p>CB</p> <p>SH</p> <p>Cllr M</p>	
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	<p>upkeep or emptying extra bins or for putting up signs alternative means will need to be found, Town or Parish Council</p> <p>Cllr Murphy asked who to contact regarding flooding in general?</p> <p>SH it depends where the flooding is the EA deal with main river, if you ring general enquiries, they will sign post you to the right area.</p> <p>Vicky Lowman is the contact</p> <p>Action Cllr To email Cllr Murphy with the contact number</p> <p>Martin Stevens informed HB that the shingle is building up by the outlet fall, it is caused by the low water levels not pushing it away.</p> <p>The Environment Agency is responsible for removing the shingle.</p>	<p>SH</p> <p>Cllr W</p>	
<p><b>Item 4</b></p>	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Craig received an enquiry from a local artist, he would like permission to hand his artwork on the railings on the Esplanade in Watchet, Craig would like some advice/ direction on this.</p> <p>Michele thought that he would need a licence like any other trader and that he would have to abide by the same regulations otherwise anyone could sell without any control and wouldn't be fair.</p> <p>Cllr agreed with Michele, Town Council deal with trader applications all the time and offer gazebo for hire, it will open all sorts of problems and the Onion Collective could challenge if we give adhoc permissions. He will have to apply to the Town Council Clerk.</p>	<p>CB</p> <p>MB</p>	
<p><b>Item 5</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Martin asked if the wild growth was cleared on West Pier Car park.</p> <p>It has been planned in though there are lots of flowers with pollenating bees on, so will arrange after flowering, Craig checks the area regularly to ensure the growth doesn't don't obstruct any signs.</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>CB</p>	

	There was no other business, Cllr Sully thanked everyone for attending the HB meeting.	Cllr S	
<b>Items 6</b>	Date and Time of next meeting Wed 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2022  Meeting ended at 11.15		