

Appendix L

Somerset West and Taunton - Fees and Charges 2019/20 Watchet and Minehead Harbours

Both Harbours struggle to maintain their statutory compliance with the level of funding brought in through the Harbour operation alone.

In recent years Council have invested further financial support in to the Harbours at an increase cost to the tax payer, or by drawing in resources from other services. The ultimate goal should be for the Harbours to be self-financing, however a jump to the level required to achieve this would be unsustainable.

The table below identifies the current and proposed charging schedule:

Slipway Fees at Watchet and Minehead	Current 2018/19 £	Proposed 19/20 £
Annual	150.00	155.00
Weekly	40.00	41.50
Daily	12.00	12.50
Annual kayak launch - junior u16 / full	40.00 / 50.00	41.50 / 52.00
Daily kayak launch - junior u16 / full	3.50 / 4.50	3.50 / 4.50
Leisure mooring fees per metre or part metre		
Annual (permanent mooring only)	45.00	46.50
Weekly	15.00	15.50
Flat fee half day	10.00	10.50
Flat full day	15.00	15.50
Commercial mooring fees per metre or part metre		
Annual (permanent mooring only)	70.00	72.00
Flat administration fee for transfer between moorings		
	60.00	60.00
Harbour dues per metre or part metre for vessels under 400 gross registered tonnes		
Annual	250.00	260.00
Six monthly	175.00	180.00
Weekly	65.00	67.00
Daily	20.00	21.00
Vessels over 400 gross registered tonnes (excluding hobbling duties) per visit		
	400.00	400.00
Vessels over 400 gross registered tonnes (exc. hobbling duties) per cancelled visit		
	200.00	200.00
Non-standard shared use of the harbours		
Annual	500.00	500.00
Weekly	150.00	150.00

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Daily	50.00	50.00
Non-standard shared use of the harbours, charities and community groups are exempt		
Minehead and Watchet advertising board annual fee	125.00	125.00

All fees include VAT.

The annual slipway charges represent a considerable discount over the daily or weekly charges, it is felt that the level of discount applied here is disproportionate, and the proposed charges make a move towards closing this gap.

As a point of clarity the slipway fees are not applied for Lifeboat use who have unlimited access for emergency response.

There will be no fee for nonstandard use of the harbour for charities and community groups including the Sea Scouts.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that WSC fees are lower than other ports, each port's method of charging is different so being able to create a meaningful comparison is complex. This proposed fee structure does not seek to resolve that situation and further work on comparisons is still required.

The increase in fees will bring new income for the authority, whilst this income should be ring-fenced for the operation of the Harbour it does reduce the general fund contribution made and therefore an improvement in the councils MTFP should be the result.

Whilst there are new fees proposed and increases in some existing fees the user numbers in the harbour are not significant, therefore the overall benefit to the MTFP is considered to be £500.

END

Chris Hall
Localities Manager