

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR
AUTHORITY HELD USING ZOOM ON 22nd APRIL 2021 AT 1800.**

Members and Officers in attendance:

Dominic Crawley – Chairman
Mark Beighton – Harbour Master
Rodney Carter – Vice Chairman
Helen Phillips – Office Manager
Dermod Drought
John Endicott
Martyn Oates
Mark Steggle
Peter Hinchliffe
Steve Maltby
Andrew Matthews
Nicky Tewson

Apologies for Absence

There were none.

Members of the public attending: Jamieson Lee, Graham Tomlinson, Laurie Wilson, Alex Nell and Graham Carter.

Dominic Crawley opened the meeting by welcoming the newly elected mooring holders' representatives to the Authority, namely Steve Maltby, Andrew Matthews and Nicky Tewson.

47/21 MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting from the 18th March 2021 were proposed by Dermod Drought to be a true reflection of what was discussed, seconded by Peter Hinchliffe and unanimously agreed.

48/21 MATTERS ARISING

Revision of policy and complaint from an individual whose mooring has been taken away has been carried forward to the May meeting.

49/21 CORRESPONDENCE

1. Will Mumford's letter was circulated to all members. Dominic, or the HM will respond and a copy circulated to committee members.
2. Nigel Sobey wrote in on a friend's behalf to ask if a commercial fisherman who is currently on our waiting list be allowed to be given priority for a deep-water mooring. The matter was considered, and it was agreed that it would not be appropriate to give someone on the waiting list a priority in this way.

3. A paddleboard instructor has written asking permission to carry out lessons on the river. She has supplied insurance documentation and standard operating procedures and the HM is satisfied this covers appropriate areas. It was acknowledged that with the increased popularity in the sport the more instruction being received by inexperienced users the better, so the permission was granted.

50/21 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The OM ran through the figures for the month. The main source of income for March has come from kayaks and paddleboards. A detailed list of the expenditure was made available to the committee members prior to the meeting. The current projected cashflow indicates that cash held in the bank is likely to fall by about £15k by the end of the year. There are a lot of factors that will effect this over the year including the visitor season and the weather.

Action: a committee member asked if the revenue raised from kayaks and paddleboards be accounted for so that it is easily identified. The OM pointed out that this has been done and next month's figures will show it separately not as part of Harbour dues.

51/21 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

1. The phone and broadband contracts have now been switched to XLN.
2. The 'man-down' alert equipment has now been ordered.
3. Jeremy Spring the new deputy HM is in post and is contributing well and learning fast.
4. No aggressive behaviour to report this month.
5. Two incidences to report of significance this month. A father and two children on a sailing boat had engine trouble and had to be rescued. A note has been added to our website that additional forms of propulsion should be carried, sails or oars as a back up to an engine.
The second incident involved two young children falling from the hammerhead pontoon at Yealm steps into the water. They were both wearing well-fitting buoyancy aids, but a strong flood tide meant the adult with them was unable to get them out of the water. Opportunely the deputy HM and an assistant were close by and able to help with their retrieval.
6. Bridgend Lift in took place on a neap tide but all boats were successfully launched.
7. Railing's quotation – the individual who had quoted has had to withdraw due to time restraints. He has recommended someone else who is in the process of quoting. The committee ruled that this is an urgent case and should proceed provided the HM is satisfied with the quotation.
8. A third card reader for payments has been purchased as a backup in the office.

A committee member asked if we could find a way to restrict access to the hammerhead to stop incidents of children falling in in the future. A gate mechanism was suggested, but the drawbacks to such an approach were noted. It was agreed that the issue of hammerhead access would need to be looked into at a future meeting later in the year.

52/21 MOORING HOLDERS' REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS

The elections were well supported with 91 people voting. One ballot paper was spoiled and was removed from the count. The counting process was observed by an independent individual, Rosemary Watts, and the committee wishes to record their thanks to her for agreeing to provide this independent oversight. The Chairman thanked the office manager for the efficient and well-run process for accessing mooring holder's eligibility to vote as they entered the hall. The results were notified by email to the mooring holders and published in the public notice section of the Western Morning News.

53/21 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury PC - nothing to report.

Yealmpton PC - nothing to report.

Newton and Noss PC – there is a kayak on the racks on Noss Hard that shouldn't be there. If it is not removed by May it will be removed by the parish.

Brixton PC – a letter regarding the new launch charge was received and Martyn Oates replied to it copying in the Harbour Office. The HM then added a few further pointers.

54/21 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

There are a significant number of new members to the Authority and the Chairman let them know that he is available should they have any questions or areas of responsibility that they are not sure about. The Authority seeks to conduct a fair and balanced approach to managing the river and it is important that all members of the Authority speak with one voice and back decisions made. The Authority will continue to review processes and assess areas of risk during the busy summer months and consider revisions to procedures where felt necessary. He asked if someone was prepared to take over the role of verifying the bank accounts and shadowing the OM on financial matters and will revisit this request next month.

59/21 AOB

Rodney Carter reported back from the River Yealm Management Group meeting. The pollution issue in Wembury Bay has been sourced to misconnections and has been resolved. The shell fishing classification occasionally changes from B to C depending on the prevailing water quality.

Mark Steggle pointed out that Noss Hard was so congested with cars that people are unable to launch boats there. It was pointed out that this is common ground, and an immediate solution couldn't be found.

Non members were asked to leave the meeting while the question over named individuals mooring requirements were discussed.

60/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be the annual meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on **Thursday 20th May 2021 at 1800.**

Chairman