

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR
AUTHORITY HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE, NEWTON FERRERS 21ST JULY AT
1800.**

Members and Officers in attendance:

Dominic Crawley – Chairman
Rodney Carter – Vice Chairman
John Endicott
Nicky Tewson
Dermod Drought
Mark Steggle
Stephen Maltby
Martyn Oates
Andrew Matthews

Mark Beighton – Harbour Master
Helen Phillips – Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Peter Hinchliffe

72/22 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th June 2022 were proposed by Andrew Matthews to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Nicky Tewson, and agreed by all other members who had attended the meeting.

73/22 MATTERS ARISING

Covered in the meeting.

74/22 CORRESPONDENCE

A mooring holder, Patricia Irvine, confirmed that she will be living back in the village full time from the end of the year and her boat will be returning to its mooring then, as it currently has engine issues.

75/22 FINANCIAL REPORT

A detailed report of the income and expenditure was given to the Authority. The SWW account was visited in detail to show that the current direct debit amount will cover our liabilities for the year. A check had been made to ensure that there is no sewerage charge added to the bill for Bridgend End Quay, which there isn't. A number of Sage issues on the account have been addressed and the OM feels we have dealt with most of them although a few discrepancies remain. The Chairman agreed to assist with this.

The cashflow shows total balances across all of our accounts of £295,023 as at the end of June. We continue to be ahead of budget projections for the year.

76/22 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Teignmouth Maritime Services will carry out the Yealm steps pontoon repairs at Bridgend Quay in November and Plymouth Boatyard have agreed to arrange the crange onto the quay.

Walcon will construct the new pontoon section. The drawings still need to be approved with delivery expected in November. Clarification is being sort from the MMO to see if a license will be required for this.

SHDC are running an electric outboard initiative. They are holding a zoom meeting and Rodney Carter has agreed to attend on the authority's behalf.

There have been seven incidents to report, these have included engine failure, near misses, running aground and an injury.

A suspected incident of illegal fishing was reported to the MMO. A dory was reported by two local residents being recovered at 0120 on the 20th July in Noss Creek.

The HM is away on holiday for the September meeting, and it was agreed that the DHM should stand in for him.

Following several occurrences in mid-July where mooring holders didn't indicate that they would be returning to their moorings , including one where a large yacht picked up a mooring which was inappropriate and a confrontation ensued between the skipper of the yacht and the skipper of the returning boat, the HM sent out an email to all mooring holders reminding them of their responsibility to mark their mooring if they are returning later the same day. This will help avoid such confrontations especially if the Harbour Staff are, for whatever reason, unable to advise visiting yachts of the suitability of a mooring. The Authority discussed the issues and agreed that if the current system is followed it will help to ensure that similar situations are unlikely to recur in the future. There has been specific communication with the mooring holder concerned. It was agreed that the situation would be monitored over the remainder of the 'busy' season to see whether any revision to the current approach needs to be considered..

Total boat nights so far this year are 2,866 down some 300 on the same period last year. Likewise, total licenses for day launching currently stands at 813, 249 down on last year.

77/22 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Nothing to report

78/22 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The process of completing the agreed transfer of land titles between the RYHA, SHDC and The Yealm Development continues at a frustratingly slow pace. A request has been made to Land Registry for a site visit by a Land Registry Surveyor along with all interested parties, to resolve the apparent inaccuracies which it has agreed to but not given a date yet.

The chairman also asked that over the winter period the authority consider what options might be possible to alleviate dinghy overcrowding at Yealm Steps pontoons in the future.

79/22 RULE AND REGULATION AMENDMENTS

The chairman advised that a review of Standing Order 63, which addresses the documents to be given to members, had highlighted the need to amend the wording. The revision is to include: ‘reference to the Department for Transport Ports Good Governance Guidance; The Port Marine Safety Code, and the RYHA Handbook (an introduction for new members)’. This revision was agreed.

It was also agreed that Regulation 3.6 (relating to partnership arrangements) needed amending and Andrew Matthews agreed to liaise with the HM and draft the amendment for the next meeting.

80/22 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

Nothing

82/22 AOB

The new Office Manager, Debbie Rhead has been appointed and will start in October this year to work alongside the existing OM until she leaves.

The chairman reported that Jez Spring had confirmed his interest in stepping up to the role of HM next year, on Mark Beighton’s retirement at the end of March. There was unanimous consensus that Jez should be offered the role, subject to completing a new role application form, the taking up of references, and so on. The chairman will co-ordinate this. In addition, a sub-committee (Chairman, Stephen Maltby, Martyn Oates) will settle the salary for the new HM role.

The authority will wish to hear the views of Mark Beighton and Jez Spring on the role of DHM for 2023.

A committee member raised the issue of running moorings and that some are rigged in such a way to impede navigation and causing an issue for swimmers and small craft. The HM agreed to look into this.

83/22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on Thursday 15th September 2022 at 6pm at the Harbour Office.

Chairman