

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR
AUTHORITY HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE AT 18.00 ON 20TH JULY 2023**

Members and Officers in attendance:

Dominic Crawley - Chairman
Rodney Carter – Vice- Chairman
Nicky Tewson
Stephen Maltby
Mark Steggles
Dermod Drought
Martyn Oates

Jez Spring – Harbour Master
Debbie Rhead – Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Peter Hinchliffe, Tom Edie, John Endicott and Andrew Matthews

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

70/23 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th June 2023 were proposed by Stephen Maltby to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Rodney Carter and agreed by all other members who had attended that meeting.

71/23 MATTERS ARISING

Debbie Rhead confirmed that a donation of £50 to the River Yealm Regatta fireworks 2023 had been made.

72/23 CORRESPONDENCE

An email has been received from Chris George informing the authority that he has started a process to apply for the Yealm to become a designated bathing/swimming area and requesting the support of the RYHA. It was agreed to provide support to the application, but that he should be encouraged to connect with other local bodies which have been considering similar application processes. Rodney Carter and Mark Steggles abstained from this decision as it conflicted with the views of the Newton & Noss Parish Council.

73/23 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income

Income invoiced for June was £23,232 inc. VAT, the bulk of this being visitor fees (£17,700) and Launch-only KPC (£2,000).

Expenses

For June, salaries were £9,277 and overheads were £14,877 which included this quarters' rent of £12,575.

Comparison P & L (Year-to-date 2023 -vs- Year-to-date 2022)

Overall, the authority's income is up £22,600 year-to-date. Costs are up £10,380 year-to-date, leaving a net increase of £12,937.

Cashflow Position

The opening June balance was £222,858 and the closing June balance £237,871.

2023 Budget Overview at half-way (6 months) point in the year

- 11,000 up on budgeted income
- 34,000 increase in expenditure – this is mainly due to the new pontoon £43,300 which was an un-budgeted capital expense.
- Savings made this year on Insurance - £5,000 and other small amounts of General Expenses

74/23 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

The numbers of kayak and paddle board discs issued so far this year is down by 200 discs on last year. The number of visitor boat nights is up by 4.

There were 3 incidents on the river during June, all of which have been recorded.

The lower section of railings at Wembury Steps are loose. Devon Highways have been contacted and will carry out an inspection sometime before the 3rd August.

We are still waiting to hear from SHDC regarding the repair work required on the Quay at Yealm Steps. We requested an update on 12th June.

Akzo Nobel have now provided slides of the remediation strategy meeting held on 13th June 2023 together with copies of their initial sampling findings / map. We now await further information on their detailed plan of action and confirmation of MMO approval.

75/23 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – Dermot Drought confirmed the residency of one of our Applicants for a mooring.

Newton and Noss – Nothing to report.

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

76/23 APPLICANTS ON WAITING LIST

A discussion was held regarding the applications procedure to join the waiting list. After due consideration, it was decided that applications should only be accepted

from individuals who are at least 16 years old, and that mooring licences in any category will only be issued to individuals who are at least 18 years old. All other application requirements remain unchanged. The revisions were proposed by Stephen Maltby, seconded by Martyn Oates and agreed by all other authority members who had attended that meeting. Proposed policy amendment wording will be drafted and submitted to the September meeting for consideration.

77/23 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

None.

78/23 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

The new mooring applications were noted, with no concerns expressed. Since the last meeting, 1 'A' mooring, 2 'C' moorings, 1 'D' mooring and 1 outhaul have been allocated. There was one new Partner Agreement request.

79/23 AOB

Electric Water Taxi: An update on the Electric Water Taxi was provided on behalf of the board of YCET. The Authority noted that the boatman had resigned unexpectedly but that work had begun to employ two replacements. Training has already begun, and it is also anticipated that a third boatman will join them mid-August. The plan is still to operate the currently publish hours, but these may be reduced while the new operators are trained. Salcombe Harbour Office have asked the Harbour Master to carry out the competency checks on the new employees before they start to operate.

Replacement Engine for the Harbour Launch: Stephen Maltby has been looking at new engines for the Harbour Launch 'Magic' as it is considered we should look to purchase a new engine owing to the age and condition of the existing engine. Three options were researched, and it was agreed that the best option was a like-for-like Beta Marine engine at a cost of £5,485, inc. VAT with a 10/12 week waiting time. This timing would enable the new engine to be installed over the winter period. The Chairman proposed that the Authority commit to the replacement engine expenditure and go ahead and order the new engine, this was seconded by Rodney Carter and agreed by all other Committee Members who were present.

Solar Panels on the Harbour Office Roof : Nicky Tewson asked the Committee if they felt they were currently able to go ahead with the purchase and installation of Solar Panels at the Harbour Office. It was decided that more information was needed, and this should be set as an agenda item for the September meeting.

80/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on Thursday 21st September 2023 at 6pm at the Harbour Office.

Chairman