

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE AT 18.00 ON 21st JANUARY 2025

Members and Officers in attendance:

Dominic Crawley – Chairman

Ian Kennedy

Nicky Tewson

Martyn Oates - zoom

Stephen Maltby – Vice Chairman - zoom

Kevin Thomas

Mark Steggles - zoom

John Stansell - zoom

John Endicott

Peter Hinchliffe - zoom

Jez Spring- Harbour Master – zoom

Debbie Rhead- Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Tom Edie sent his apologies.

Declarations of Interest

None.

01/25 MINUTES

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2024 were presented to the meeting. Martyn Oates raised reservations regarding the minuted wording of item No. 90/24 (Mooring Risk Acceptance / Acknowledgement), in particular the potential for liability arising from the allocation of moorings by the Authority. The minutes were proposed by Ian Kennedy to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Kevin Thomas and agreed by the other members who had attended that meeting.

02/25 MATTERS ARISING

As discussed at the last meeting the new wording to be added to the Renewal form is as follows –

Mooring Terms and Conditions: *In acceptance of these as a visitor or mooring holder, you are being made aware that adjacent berthed vessels may collide with each other due to prevailing anomalous wind(s) and or tide. The RYHA, in advising or allocating a berth, will consider vessel size, type, design and weather conditions for a suitable safe berth to their best endeavour. In providing this service, the RYHA accepts no responsibility and cannot guarantee that adjacent berthed vessels may not collide. Suitable precautions (by skippers) to protect a vessel(s) may be necessary at times.*

This was proposed by Dominic Crawley, seconded by John Endicott and agreed by all who were present.

03/25 CORRESPONDENCE

An email has been received from the Yealm Gig Club, requesting a deep water mooring for the Club to ensure access to one of the gigs at all states of the tide. The rationale to allow for more scheduled practices and enable more people to participate in rowing. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that there is strong support for the Gig Club's request, but several operational challenges remain. A letter will be sent to the Gig Club, outlining these challenges, while also inviting them to join the Harbour Master and a Committee member for a river outing to explore any potential options. In advance of this, the Harbour Master will review the mapping system to assess any possibilities.

The RYDA has requested a donation of £35 for the Harbour Clean Up 2024. As this event will take place again in March 2025, it was agreed to send a payment of £70 to the RYDA to cover both years.

04/25 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses for September

In November our income exceeded £7,600. This was mainly from winter storage at Bridgend.

Expenses totalled £6,100 while overheads amounted to £4,000.

In December our income was just over £800

Expenses were nearly £6,000 and our over heads were £18, 819 (this included the rent for the next quarter - £ 14,575).

Comparison P & L YTD 2024 -v- 2023

As of December, income has increased by £4,000 compared to the same period in 2023. Direct expenses have decreased by £3,700, and overheads were also down by £3,000 on the previous year.

Balance Sheet

Current assets show debtors totalling just under £600.

Cashflow

The opening balance for November was £250,420 with a closing balance of £231,765 at the end of December.

There is an amount of £4,330 of bank interest to be added to the accounts, but as this did not get credited to our account until 6th January 2025 Franklins have asked us not to enter it yet, pending the audit process.

05/25 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Incidents: One incident was reported since the last meeting involving illegal fishermen.

Infrastructure: The annual audit of the Harbour infrastructure was carried out by HM and Rodney Carter (N&N Parish) on 14th January 2025. The HM has fitted new mesh side panels to the Yealm Steps gangway and installed strops to stop the lightweight gangway retention chains catching on the edges of the pontoon and damaging the wooden protective stakes.

Office Computers: New computers and display screens have been purchased for HM and OM following the complete failure of the OM's computer. Some frustration with retrieving data from old computer backup passports and inability to get the OZI mapping system to work on the new HM computer.

Non-Use of Moorings and or Vessels in 2024: Fifteen Non-Use Letters were sent out to mooring holders on 28th October 2024 and responses were received back from all of

them. Four moorings have been relinquished, (2 x As and 2 x Bs) and these will now be re-allocated.

International Paints Ltd: HM received a letter on 28th November 2024 (circulated to the Committee Members) outlining the latest position regarding potential remediation works at the site. We understand the MMO have issued a 'Draft Licence' but no practical work will start until Late 2025 at the earliest and only after a full licence has been issued.

06/25 POLICY REVISION

Ian Kennedy has been working on a document (BR/Book of Reference) to bring together all of the Harbour Authorities Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures and Standing Orders under one document. Draft copies of section 1 & 2 have been circulated to Committee Members for their perusal and feedback. Ian explained that there are many issues to consider while compiling this document and many members have offered Ian their help and knowledge to assist him with this. The Chairman thanked Ian for his ongoing efforts with this task and advised that working parties/groups will be formed to help cover all aspects. Martyn Oates feels this will help to sort out some of the 'grey' areas and clarify certain points.

07/25 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – Nothing to report.

Newton and Noss – Peter Hinchliffe updated the Committee to inform them that Akzo Nobel are unlikely to undertake any work until at least October 25 at the earliest. The PC has been told that once a formal plan is in place, an 'Open Meeting' will be held to share the intentions with the public.

Martyn Oates expressed concern, feeling that, as tenants of the river under the Crown Estates lease, we risk not having been adequately consulted throughout the process. He also raised the possibility that the Crown Estates themselves may not have been sufficiently involved. The Chairman agreed to address this by reaching out directly to the Crown Estates to ascertain how fully informed it is of Akzo Nobel's plans and what its position is.

Peter also informed the Committee that a PhD student from Plymouth University has been conducting research and has uncovered evidence of mercury pollution. He is currently awaiting a response from the Environment Agency regarding whether warning notices need to be posted

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

08/25 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

A meeting took place between the Chairman, Harbour Master (HM), Rodney Bastard, and Kevin Arscott, the Kitley Moorings Manager, to discuss the encroachment of a few Kitley moorings. It was agreed that the HM, Nigel Sobey, and Kevin will assess which moorings are affected and make arrangements to have them properly repositioned.

09/25 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Chairman reported that he is continuing to liaise with the RYA to obtain his letter of appointment.

10/25 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

In November and December, there were five new applicants requesting to join the mooring waiting list.

Six moorings were allocated: 2 x A Moorings, 2 x B Moorings and 2 x C Moorings. No partnership agreement requests were received for this period.

11/25 AOB

The Harbour Master (HM) expressed concerns about the depth of water at Bridgend Quay. Stephen Maltby pointed out that while sediment has been dredged in past years, it tends to build up again quite rapidly. Kevin Thomas added that local residents have reported increased runoff and changes in the colour of the soil and mud.

Nicky Tewson informed the members that Dave Curnow, from the Green Blue Initiative and the Regional Environmental Representative for the RYA, will be speaking at the YYC on 12th February at 8pm.

Ian Kennedy sent his apologies for next month's meeting in advance.

12/25 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at 6pm at The Harbour Office.

13/25 REASONABLE USE OF CRAFT RESPONSES

This was covered in the HM report.

Chairman