

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMERCIAL ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 14 October 2019

Present:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| J Thomas | BHC | Harbour Master |
| G Constable | Waterside Boatyard | |
| O Evans | BHC | |
| S Haigh | Coach House | |
| M French | French Marine | |
| B Haward | Oyster Fishery | |
| B Hetherington | WSC | |
| A Harman | St Osyth Boatyard | |
| A Goggin | Essex CC | |
| M Morris | Rowing Club | |
| A Gibbons | CYC | |
| D Boughton | HHA | |
| G Steady | BTC | Mayor |
| J Carr | BTC | |
| P Smith | BHC | |
| C Stopford | BHC | |
| In attendance: | | |
| J Addison | Commissioners | |
| D Nicholson | Commissioners | |
| P Hatswell | Commissioners | |
| D Miko | Exo Environmental | |

194 Introduction & Apologies for absence

The HM welcomed members to the group, which includes a number of new members ensuring that all stakeholders are represented. Apologies were received from:

| | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| G Dowd | Purelake | |
| D Potter | Orsted | Chairman |

195 Minutes of the Meeting of 11 Mar 2019.

Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

196 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Items raised at the last meeting would be covered later in the meeting.

197 USAR

David Miko briefed those in attendance about depths in Fieldgate Dock following a Drone survey in Sep 19. It appeared that a small increase in accretion had occurred towards the west with a reduction in sedimentation in the east. This variability is consistent with seasonal variation often experienced within our environment. An update was also given on the Borrow pits saltmarsh recovery, new habitats creation and site visits to inform and advise regulators and potential stakeholders.

198 Harbour News

The HM reported on the following;

Shipping - 28 Ships on Wharf since 13/03/19.

Commercial Activity - Bradwell activities, Windfarm Work.

Maintenance

- Town Jetty repairs, refurbishments.
- Taxi new gear box, New engines on Ferry and Launch
- Dracula new gear box.
- Buoy inspection, repairs and new lights.
- Buoy inspection by Trinity house excellent report.
- Colne Worker Refit.
- Oil spill response Exercise, 20th March successful, good report.
- Replacement of low level boarding on Hammerhead.
- Launches reinforced lockers.
- Ferry winch replacements.
- Electrical inspections of all facilities.

Maintenance to do

- Concreting of wreck house apron.
- Boat Park upgrade.
- SMS inspection.
- All Harbour vessels in for maintenance.
- Pile Blackening.
- Fuel berth Maintenance
- Town Jetty refurb.
- Hard Hut step.
- Office Entrance.
- Workshop rear.
- Office outside painting.
- Planking replacement.
- Mooring chain remediation.

Marina

- Dredging continues.
- Enhanced dredging scheduled for the winter.
- Toilets and showers - coding system.
- WI-FI extension planned.
- Lifebuoys and pedestals put in place.

Dredging

- Maintenance Dredging Programme started.
- Fuel berth.
- Bumpkin Bay.
- Minters, Hard and Town Jetty.
- Cindery/ St Osyth/ Turning Circle.
- Creek Mouth.
- Main Channel off Wharf.

The season

- Ferry Numbers up 11%
- Taxi Numbers about the same
- Visitors Numbers slightly up

- Social Media - up to 1.8k and 1.8k on both sites
- Colne connection Charters fewer runs but increased take up.

Respect the River

- Patrols conducted up River and locally.
- Detected better behaviour.
- CBC looking to improve signage and pay for more patrols, struggling financially.
- It would appear that many more complaints of Byelaw and speeding violations are coming from either Jet Skis, paddleboards or Kayaks.
- Many reports of improvements, still some isolated incidents up river.

Safety

- Lone working technological improvements employed by the Harbour.
- Shipping movements, and adherence to byelaws.
- Vessel preparedness, ensuring that they have Lifejackets, radios and spare engines where appropriate.
- VHF how to use it and what channels they operate on.
- Short tacking in the channel against a flooding tide, by yachts.
- Sinking boats up river, spilling fuel.
- Poorly maintained moorings and vessels slipping their moorings.

The Future

One-year objectives:

- To finalise with Brightlingsea Town Council an updated Licence/Lease agreement regarding managing and maintaining the Boat Park, Hard and Town Jetty

Three-year objectives:

- To establish a permanent ferry landing stage at Point Clear
- To establish a designated parking area for short-term use by mooring holders and visitors
- To establish access to power and water for certain harbour moorings, using modern technologies wherever possible.

Capital Equipment Replacement

Strategy endorsed, with aim to replace, as and when necessary, with more environmentally friendly equipment.

Posts on Hard

It was agreed that further consideration should be given to the environmental impact of current use and ways to mitigate this.

199 Other stakeholder News

G Dowd from Purelake had asked the HM to state work should be complete by Christmas, after that we will be doing a full review of management and improvements to the whole estate in the new year.

J Carr gave a presentation on the Heritage pier which was being considered to be located on the Hard. P Smith asked if there were any plans to improve the smack JC suggested that they were working with them to see what improvements could be made.

A Gibbons suggested that with these developments visitors would need somewhere to park had the council any plans to deal with this. JC stated there was parking on the Promenade which with the new cut through could be successfully utilised.

A Goggin liked the idea and asked JC to confirm that crabbers would be allowed to use it to take some of the pressure of the town jetty particularly at High Water, JC did.

J Addison was interested in the moveable pontoon, the scheme in general and asked what was the next step. JC stated more consultation, planning, design then Bid writing.

There was a general consensus that it was a good idea with G Constable commenting 'This has been a long time overdue'. JC thanked all those assembled for taking the time to listen to him. Plans were available on demand.

200 Matters raised by members

B Hetherington pointed out to the HM that the pontoon movement due to the pile reinstatement on Cindery pontoon had happened without stakeholder consultation, a requirement of the PMSC. He sought assurance that this would not happen again.

The HM stated that the pontoon movement was a requirement of the re-piling as the new piles could not use the original holes. He showed a number of before and after photographs and a plan of the pontoon movement, he went on to state consultation was limited to engineers and those with experience in this field. The Commissioners believed the aforementioned were best placed to make professional recommendations. Consultation was a requirement of the 'Guide to good practice', however the Harbour authority as the legal functionary must choose appropriate consultees, occasionally these may be exclusive. The HM however conceded that communicating earlier may have been better. He also added that except for a discussion with BH some two weeks earlier there had been very little concern from stakeholders since the piling last January. In summary, no assurance was needed as the commissioners were compliant in their execution of harbour business. BH understood that engineers should be consulted but still believed that the users should have been too. J Addison Chairman of Commissioners reinforced the fact that when in the future St Osyth piles were replaced the same process will be followed.

201 Meeting closed 19.45hrs

202 Date of next Meeting
16th Mar 20



Mr. D. POTTER.

16.03.2020.