

*Ally Davis*  
13/10/2020

## BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 15 October 2019

#### Present:

A Davies	RYA	Chairman
J Thomas	BHC	Harbour Master
A Gibbons	CYC	
M Hilden	CYC	
C Willets	CYC	
J Gill	CYC	
P Smith	CYC	
D Hodgkinson	CYC	
B Newman	CYC/BSC	
J Lawrence	CSPS	
J Thurlow	Ind	
D Bentt	CYC	
J Hazelton	CYC	
C Spikesley	CYC	
N Edmunds	CYC/BSC	
A Conroy	BSC	
G Chasney	CYC	
G Taylor	BHC	
C Watkins	CYC/UCSC	
J Hamagon	CYC	
A Goggin	Essex CC	
D Hykel	Pilots	
O Evans	BHC	
A Scott	BHC	
N Taylor	BHC	
A Espin	CYC	
W Williams	CYC	
J Gibbons	CYC	
C Gould	UCSC	
M O Connor	Ind	
P Hazelton	CYC	
M Barry	BTC	
G Steady	BTC	Mayor
J Carr	BTC	
G Bacon	BHC	
D Atkinson	CYC	
M Keegan	CYC	
B Moy	IFCA	
P Farrell	Ind	
F Belgrove	Alresford PC	
P Stonebridge	BHC	
C Wood	CYC	
I Hunter	CYC	
A Downer	CYC	
K King	Ind	

M King	Ind
B Percival	Bsea Wildfowlers
C Cooper	BWSPC
In attendance:	
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
F Brown	BSC
J Robinson	

**195** Minutes of the Meeting of 12 Mar 2019.

Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

**187** Matters Arising from the Minutes

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

**188** 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.

**189** 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, 20<sup>th</sup> March successful, good report.
- Replacement of low level boarding on Hammerhead.
- Launches reinforced lockers.
- Ferry winch replacements.
- Electrical inspections of all facilities.

P Hazelton asked why the Town jetty Hammerhead was higher than the pontoon, which made it difficult to get in or alight from the water taxi. The HM responded that as the construction of the Jetty pre dates him he didn't know, however the Taxi next season will have a more robust handrail system, and there is always the Yacht Club Hammerhead. N Taylor suggested it was to allow access to and from a barge although this was unsubstantiated.

### **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.

C Willets asked how much the BHC earn from the boat park and why has it not been put out to tender. The HM responded approximately £12k however that included the Jetty and the Hard as well as the maintenance for them, it is ultimately a loss making venture but complements what the BHC do. He didn't feel able to answer the question as to why it had not been put out to tender as he was not a member of BTC. C Spikesley suggested that the council should be directed to answer this question as under the freedom of information act unlike BHC they were obliged to do so. Later J Carr BTC stated he would put the question to full council.

### **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.

There was some concern that water sprayed on the scrap on the Wharf would ultimately become contaminated and get back into the water source, the HM responded that this issue is monitored by the EA who inspect the drainage etc however if there was visible contamination he would follow it up. *Update the water is fed into a drainage system pumped to a tank and reused, it is not allowed to drain into the water course.* P Hazelton wanted to know whether the water was salt water or fresh water as he parks his car in the boat park and was concerned that it may accelerate corrosion. The HM replied he would find out. *Update it is fresh.*

## **190 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. J Hazelton asked if there were any plans to

reinstate the dolphins and had he got any timelines, J Carr replied aspirations at the moment and probably within 5 years. D Hodgkinson expressed concern that given its proximity to the CYC jetty it may make rowing her vessel to the jetty more difficult, J Carr stated the detailed plan was not yet complete and this would be taken into account.

There was a general consensus that it was a good idea A Conroy commenting it would be like the Maldon Barges. JC thanked all those assembled for taking the time to listen to him. Plans were available on demand.

**191** Matters raised by members

All answered during the meeting.

**192** Meeting closed 19.35hrs

**193** Date of next Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> Mar 20