

Minutes
Whitby Harbour Users Group
16 September 2024
Whitby Harbour Office

Present:

Bob Bennett BB
Chis Bourne CB
James Buck JB
Howard Fields HF
Adrian Fusco AF
Paul Hobson PH
David Moore DM
Alan Page AP
Gary Pearson GP
Linda Wild – LW
Shaun Wood SW

		Action
1.	Apologies: James C Cllr. Mark Crane	
2.	Minutes of last meeting: The notes of the last meeting were reviewed. Most items discussed previously were on the agenda.	
3.	Matters arising: CB introduced himself as the new Head of Harbours and Coastal Infrastructure. SW updated on the fishing industry. It had been a quiet season for scallops, salmon and trout season had been poor, there had been global warming/dolphin/seal problems, white fish was disappointing, and crabs/lobsters prices are down.	

	<p>SW stated the China market has disappeared, and quotas/pot limitations are coming. There is no support with grants or financial assistance. No youth involvement.</p> <p>SW advised of a new dredging project planned on the Tees.</p> <p>JB updated on incidents.</p> <p>GP updated on the MCA health check of 2 March 2024 which had been successfully passed.</p> <p>GP advised of the East Pier damaged stonework surfacing which had been repaired.</p> <p>The fish market door, trawl door crane, ladders and gate the east pier and, fish pier repairs were all complete.</p> <p>CB advised he would be implementing a new maintenance regime involving the Council's engineers.</p> <p>CB updated on a proposal for a harbours infrastructure strategy over 10 yrs which could result in £30m investment across both harbours. If approved, money would be secured to start designs and construction projects at Eskside Wharf, and Fish Quay.</p> <p>AP stated damage to top of piles was a priority.</p> <p>Queries were raised over sizes of barges near WCA pontoons. CB advised alternative berthing would be arranged by the harbour master.</p>	
4.	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>AP noted concern over requirement to remove pots, and feels some fishermen are not going to make the deadline. Stated there was no space.</p> <p>GP advised surveys have revealed a large number of non-working pots, with some being owned/stored by non-harbour users.</p> <p>GP stated each would be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and old gear needs to be disposed of i.e. trawl nets. The harbour is looking to provide storage for working gear only. AP stated some cannot afford storage.</p> <p>AF stated lack of dredging is causing issues, and they are losing members.</p> <p>CB advised the licences are being reapplied for and hopes they would be in place soon. As soon as the licences in place dredging will begin.</p> <p>GP stated in future the dredger would concentrate on dredging home ports.</p> <p>AP requested an update on Chieftan. CB stated a Purchase Order had been issued with the plan being to sell the vessel for £1 with the buyer either being able to get it running again or to tow the vessel away.</p>	CB

	<p>DM stated the shower/toilet block was shabby, and needs a decent clean.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>LW asked for an update on the court case? CB stated there was no news, awaiting judgement. LW asked where will the money go? Harbour budget? CB stated it was hard to say before judgement, and SBC had spent several million spent on capital projects. It was an argument over accounting principles.</p> <p>LW asked about the poly tunnel and lifeboat restoration. CB stated permission had been given by Chief Exec to remain until completion or until given notice to move due to works.</p> <p>DM raised concerns over speed of Jet Skis and weaving. GP stated the jet ski club was not permitted, but do we want to allow jet skis? Perhaps a limited number, say a club of 20. PH identified the revenue benefit and suggested a trial period.</p> <p>PH & HF discussed rowers. New rowers not invited to WHUG yet.</p> <p>CB thanks the WHUG for their compliments for staff on the Regatta being well organised and well run.</p> <p>DM suggested a review of the Terms of Reference. ACTION GP/DM</p> <p>[Post meeting note. CB received a request from Andy Jefferson of Whitby Community Network requesting to be added to the membership of this group together with Whitby & District Tourism Association. CB has advised “It is very important for me to state that the Whitby Harbour User Group is a group established by harbour users, for harbour users. They, the harbour users, chair and run the group. The Council simply facilitate the group, convening the meeting, providing a meeting room and taking minutes. It is their meeting; not ours.</p> <p>At the last meeting the group resolved to review their terms of reference which includes their membership, and I will raise your request with the chair to see if the group would like to extend an invitation to the organisations you have suggested.]</p> <p>HF raised a discussion about paddleboarders, being safer in harbour.</p> <p>RB stated their defib had been stolen. To re-site by market place seen by CCTV.</p>	
5.	<p>Date and time of next meetings:</p> <p>TBC</p>	