

# PORTLAND HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

1100 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

## Minutes of Meeting (Online Zoom Meeting)

### Attendees

Captain Mike Shipley	Portland Harbour Authority Limited (Chairman)	(MS)
Mark Rowles	Portland Harbour Authority Limited	(MR)
Sandie Wilson	Portland Harbour Authority Limited	(SW)
Peter Allam	W & P National Sailing Academy	(PA)
Simon Pengelly	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	(SP)
Ed Harland	Chesil and Fleet Nature Reserve/ Local Conservation	(EH)
Robert Miller	Defence	(RM)
Ovi Rominger	Dorset County Council Emergency Planning	(OR)
Paul Swain	Portland Harbour Small Boat Users/ Leisure	(PS)
Richard White	Royal Yachting Association & Yacht Clubs of Weymouth	(RW)
Kevin Stone	Atlas Elektronik/ Operational	(KS)
Ian Taylor	Local Fishing Interests/ Diving	(IT)
Cllr Paul Kimber	Dorset Council	(PK)
Clive Thomas	Manor Marine/ Commercial	(CT)
Stephanie Shillitoe	Natural England	(SS)
John Cranmer	Global Marine/ Shipping	(JC)

### Apologies

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies for absence, Minutes.

a) Facilitation of meeting (SW)

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b) Approval of minutes for publishing on website

Correction to organisation for Paul Kimber but otherwise minutes approved.

#### 2. Matters Arising

a) Fisheries representative (MR)

Paul Swain confirmed he had spoken to Dan Woodcock about the position. Harbour Authority to follow up directly. Ian Taylor to remain on Committee as diving representative.

#### 3. Operation, Management and Regulation of the Harbour.

a) Port Operations – COVID-19 (Commercial) (MS)

The Harbour Authorities offices are still closed to visitors with the majority of meetings taking place online or when absolutely necessary in a large Covid secure meeting room with restricted numbers. Office staff, where possible, are still working from home. Staff, unable to work from home, have had

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enhanced procedures to protect them since the start of the pandemic – this has worked extremely well with no confirmed cases.

## b) Port Operations – COVID-19 (Leisure) (MR)

As before, the Port is still open to leisure. PHAL have not imposed any restrictions, we are advising leisure users to consult and follow the current government guidelines.

## c) HCC section on website (SW)

SW provided overview of new section on website for HCC. Members confirmed emails to be added. Ovi requested that in his case the emergency planning email was used.

## d) Fisheries Regulating Order update (SW)

Defra still waiting for their legal advisors to respond on query harbour authority had on application documentation.

In terms of next stages, assuming that Defra get the go-ahead from the lawyers, the consultation process requires the draft Order to be prepared, an advert describing the Order, and where to view the documents associated with it to be placed in Fishing News and the local press (probably the Dorset Echo) at the start of the 30 day consultation, and the application and management plan need to be made available to the public (most probably online only).

If there are no objections raised during the 30 day consultation, then the Order gets presented to the Minister for signing, and then has to follow the Parliamentary process for a Statutory Instrument. If there are substantial/ multiple objections raised during the consultation then these will need to be handled in accordance with statutory requirements.

## e) Ship to Ship Transfer (Oil) (MS/SW)

Location of operations – see image below shared at meeting

Draft contents list was presented during meeting including an overview and detailed information about what is included in the application. Overview of contents anticipated was as follows:

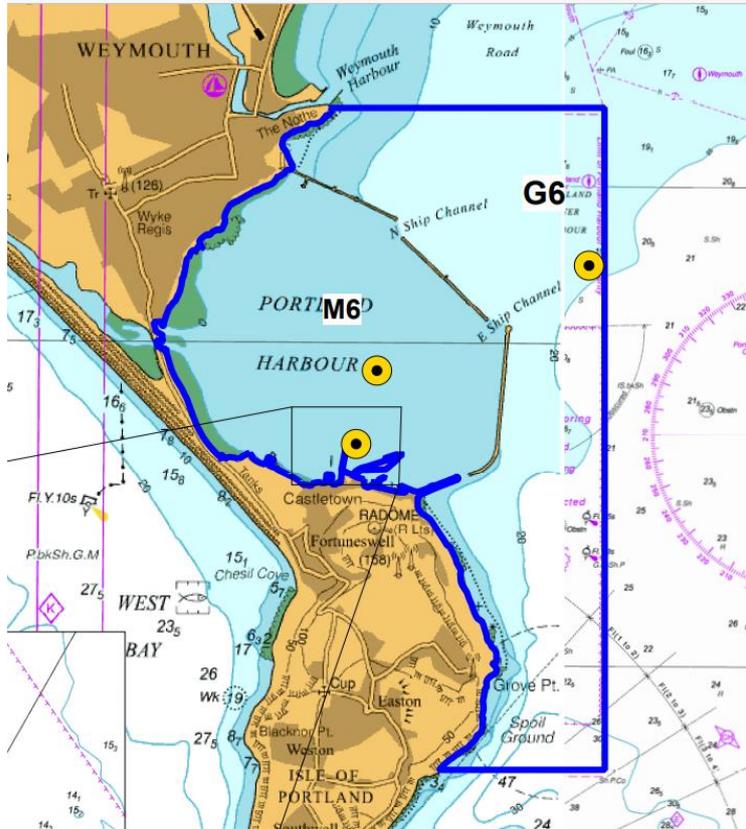
Chapter 1.	Introduction
Chapter 2.	Approach to Assessment Methodology
Chapter 3.	Proposals
Chapter 4.	Human Beings
Chapter 5.	Fauna and Flora
Chapter 6.	Water
Chapter 7.	Air
Chapter 8.	Landscape
Chapter 9.	Material Assets
Chapter 10.	Cultural Heritage
Chapter 11.	Mitigation/Measures
Chapter 12.	Residual Impacts
Chapter 13.	Non Technical Summary

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Members were advised that there would be an informal consultation prior to formal submission with an expectation of this being circulated in the next couple of weeks.

The following chart was shared to illustrate locations where operations would take place signified by yellow dots with black centre (outer harbour = G6 anchorage, Inner harbour = M6 anchorage, and Queens Pier = commercial berth).



Questions linked to pollution response capability and exercise, about any exclusion zone around the STS operation and how compared to bunkering, also the operation of the noise range.

SW agreed to follow up directly with PK once documentation had been circulated to members.

## f) Trinity House Audit Update (MR)

Due to the Covid 19 situation, this audit was unusually done by telephone. Normally the auditor would visit the port and go afloat to visually check the Navigation Marks. We had some minor deficiencies which were rectified soon after.

## g) Seagrass off Castle Cove Beach (MS/SW)

Harbour Authority have issued a Local Notice to Mariners No 07/2021(T) CASTLE COVE SEAGRASS AREA NO ANCHORING. The LNTM online was shared with attendees (see <https://www.portland-port.co.uk/local-notice-to-mariners-general-directions-and-harbour-masters-directions>)

Image of no anchoring area as below (shaded green).

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All mariners are advised not anchor within the high-lighted area above.

## h) New Harbour Tug (MS)

The port has recently purchased a one year old harbour tug directly from the builder Sanmar shipyards, the tug is a 50T BP ASD (Azimuth Stern Drive). The tug has been named the 'Rupert Best' after one of the ports directors who sadly passed away earlier in the year. The tug will enhance the ports towage capability with three tugs now 50T BP+. The ports older and smaller powered tug, the Wyke Castle is to be sold. A naming ceremony for the tug is planned later in the year upon improvement of the Covid situation.

## 4. Harbour Incidents, Dangerous Occurrences & Near Misses

### a) Incidents Leisure (MR)

1. Kite surfer in difficulty - recovered by WPNSA
2. 3 foiling Windsurfers and Safety RHIB hit submerged net – self rescue.
3. Motor vessel with power failure – Pilot boat Rodwell & RNLI effected recovery

### b) Incidents Commercial (MS)

None

## 5. Maintenance and Improvement of the Harbour.

### a) Tidal Works

#### i. CEFAS Sea Water Intake, Newtons Cove (MR)

Cefas have applied to install a new sea water inlet pipe alongside their existing pipe in Newtons Cove. The new pipe will supplement and eventually replace the existing old pipe which is causing them some

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issues. We are working with them and TrinityHouse to decide on how this extra pipe should be marked.

ii. Plot A of Northern Breakwater Aquaculture Area (SW)

SW provided an update to say that Jurassic Sea Farms Ltd were looking to make some changes to operations within Area A. Details would be shared with members.

b) Harbour Infrastructure

i. Deepwater Relocation/Disposal Site Update (SW)

All works are complete however Portland harbour Authority sought extension to licence to enable due diligence works associated with Marine Licence primarily relating to water quality and seabed/ ecology surveys. These had been delayed by a combination of Covid restrictions and weather. Initial survey complete and waiting for results. Further survey to follow.

c) Maintenance

i. Castletown Regeneration Project - Black Barge Beach (SW)

As part of his Castletown Regeneration project potential works to the beach were being considered. This primarily relates to potential removal of seaweed in front of the slipway. Early observation suggested this only had a small amount of seaweed compared to adjacent areas potentially related to historic use of slipway. Members would be briefed if any further updates.

Questions were asked about the purpose for the proposal and potential concerns were raised in connection with increased activity. MS advised that our understanding was that it is more focussed to users of the beach rather than other types of activity.

## 6. Any other business.

CT asked about plans to do litter clearance on breakwater. MS suggested we hoped to and would monitor situation and update members.

MR advised 110 Kitesurfing School applied for change to General Direction – PHAL have decided to give an extension and review in 2022.

IT advised that buoy for Countess of Erne was hooked up on breakwater. IT would try and release.

PS asked about plans for Spirit of Portland. Port unlikely to do anything this year but would advise Paul if otherwise. Marina event 23-29<sup>th</sup> August.

## 7. Proposed future meeting dates (Thursdays)

Proposed meeting mid July to be confirmed