PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY (PHA)
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 6th June 2023

1000 – 6th June 2023

Minutes of Meeting
(Hybrid Meeting)

Attendees

Mark Rowles	Portland Harbour Authority	(MR)
Frank Cox	Portland Harbour Authority	(FC)
Ian Taylor	Local Diving Interests	(IT)
Cllr Paul Kimber	Dorset Council	(PK)
Louise Stevens	W & P National Sailing Academy	(LS)
Paul Swain	Portland Harbour Small Boat Users/ Leisure	(PS)
Kevin Stone	Atlas Elektronik/ Operational	(KS)

By Teams

Ovi Rominger	Dorset County Council Emergency Planning	(OR)
John Cranmer	Global Marine/ Shipping	(JC)

Apologies

Captain Mike Shipley	Portland Harbour Authority (Chairman)	(MS)
Richard White	Royal Yachting Association & Yacht Clubs of Weymouth	(RW)
Maxine Chavner	Natural England	(MC)
Dan Woodcock	Local Fishing Interests	(DW)
Sam Dell	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	(SD)
Ed Harland	Chesil and Fleet Nature Reserve/ Local Conservation	(EH)
Robert Miller	Defence	(RM)

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

a) Apologies Received From
Captain Mike Shipley, Richard White, Maxine Chavner, Dan Woodcock, Sam Dell, Ed Harland, and Robert Miller

b) Round the table introductions
Members old and new, introduced themselves.
Pete Allum from the WPNSA has retired and we wish him well for the future, Louise Stevens joins us as his replacement.
Stephanie Shillitoe has moved department within Natural England and Maxine Chavner has joined the committee.

c) Approval of minutes for publishing on website.
Members had no comments to raise.

2. Matters Arising

a) Pacific Oysters
FC provided recap of the discussion relating to Pacific Oysters which Stephanie Shillitoe (NE) had raised last time. Issue was raised with the HUG who expressed broad interest in helping but will require direction and guidance. HCC members asked if there was to be any education provision on Pacific Oysters, which Paul Swayne said could be put up in the Marina. Paul Kimber raised possibility of working with Port Health.

3. Operation, Management and Regulation of the Harbour.

a) Curiosity Dive Park in Balaclava Bay (MR)
(MR) Discussion related to the future and viability of the park. Ultimate responsibility resides with licence holder Derek Luckhurst. He is presently looking for outside funding to support this venture.

b) Harbour Masters Direction on Spearfishing on the Breakwaters (MR)
(MR) Historically, we have given advice to Spearfishermen. We deemed that this information needed to be reviewed, Navigationally Risk Assessed and if required, updated. This has now been completed and a new Harbour Master Direction with associated handout has been issued.

c) Consultation on E-Foiling Craft (MR)
(MR) E-foiling is a fairly new and expanding leisure activity in many harbours. As with all Harbour Authorities we have looked into regulating this sport. The use of E-foils actually falls under GENERAL DIRECTION No 1 of 2012 OPERATION OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT IN PORTLAND HARBOUR and are therefore prohibited unless operated within the conditions of the General Direction. There are 2 commercial users who are presently giving instruction in the use of these craft within the harbour. We are in the process of consulting with them to see how we can accommodate their use in a particular area.

d) Nets & Pots, Draft Harbour Masters Direction for Hamm Beach (MR)
(MS) With the irresponsible fishing activity taking place on the Hamm Beach we have been forced into changing the regulations on fishing in this area. Local fishermen have been consulted and a draft plan has been established. This is based on the local fishermen forming a group and self policing the new rule changes. Fishermen who break the rules will lose the right to fish in this area. Un approved fishing equipment will be removed by PHAL.

Jurassic Seafarms & Green Ocean Farming (FC)
FC provided update on the two operators. Jurassic Seafarms have changed ownership but are under the same concession and licence. Neither operator has stock in the water currently, only marker buoys.

e) Hamm Beach users Group Feedback (MR)
(MR) The HBUG were made aware of the potential Pacific Oyster problem and all present members were eager to join in and recruit help with oyster picking within an organised event. No other issues raised.

f) Swim Buoys Hamm Beach Seasonal Exclusion Zone (MR)
The SEZ has been in place for a few years now and yet still some Kite/wind surfers ignore the charted boundary. We have decided to trial a 50m line of alternating red/yellow buoys similar to a swim zone. These buoys have floating ropes joining them together so will form a physical line of protection. A LNTM will be issued regarding this trial.

4. Harbour Incidents, Dangerous Occurrences & Near Misses

a) Incidents Leisure (MR)

MR – Reported that we have had 15 incidents ranging across all types of vessels. Some of note are.

(i) 4 Kitesurfing
(ii) Catamaran lost control within the marina and made contact with boats.
(iii) 1 Windsurfer
(iv) Catamaran dragging anchor in the harbour, RNLI involved.
(v) 1 Rib & 2 motorboats broken down and towed to safety by HM RIB
(vi) Portland Boat Club have had 4 boats slip their mooring and go ashore in the spell of easterly winds. PHAL will collate data and contact PBC regarding condition and club regulation of the moorings.1 towed to safety by HM RIB

b) Incidents Commercial (MR)

- MR – No reported commercial incidents since the last meeting.

5. Tidal Works, Maintenance and Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

a) Tidal Works
(FC) advised no current applications but expecting that Juno Development who are seeking planning permission for the former QinetiQ site at Bincleaves will need to apply for a licence soon for works in the waters of the harbour.

b) Maintenance

i. Replacement of New Channel Beacon(FC)
Expecting this will be late September early march to avoid impact on nesting birds . Intention is to replace with an H beam Pile or similar driven with a low energy hammer.

ii. Wessex water replacement daymark at Portland Castle (MR)
This mark has been fabricated and should be in place shortly.

iii. Emergency Outfall Pipe repair on Castle Cove Beach
Wessex Water recently undertook an emergency repair to the storm outfall pipe that crosses the beach. The pipe had been undermined and was sagging. The pipe was lifted, and the pocket below filled with environmentally approved quick setting grout bags.

c) Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

i. Deepwater Berth (FC)
(FC) explained DWB is now formally completed, and he is post work monitoring as required by marine licence.

ii. Updating Signage (MR)
(MR) New signage around the harbour has been commissioned and fitted to replace existing signage.

6. Any other business.

a) Voluntary No Anchoring Zone Update)
Perception is that it is having a positive effect. Relatively few people trying to anchor in it and when advised they move on. Seems that most are unaware that there is seagrass present. We have started monitoring and so far, have had 5 boats anchoring in the zone.

b) LS Stated that International Moths sailing event taking place over this and next week with up to 140 craft taking part.

c) OR Is undertaking updates to the Operational Berth Emergency Plan in response to the accommodation barge berthing here shortly. PBUK Emergency plan will be amended and trailed with tabletop exercise in October.

d) PK Asked about where Sandie Wilson had moved on to, now at Manager - Consenting, Environment and Ports at Simply Blue Energy Ltd. He would like to have it minuted noting her professionalism, time and work she had put into this and other committees she was sat on.

7. Proposed future meeting dates (Thursdays) - 23rd March 2023 TBC