PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY (PHA)
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 13th June 2024

1000 –13th June 2024

Minutes of Meeting
(Teams Meeting)

Attendees

Captain Mike Shipley	Portland Harbour Authority (Chairman)	(MS)
Mark Rowles	Portland Harbour Authority	(MR)
Frank Cox	Portland Harbour Authority	(FC)
Cllr Rob Hughes	Dorset Council	(RH)
Tom Ralph	Portland Harbour Small Boat Users/ Leisure	(TR)
Kevin Stone	Atlas Elektronik/ Operational	(KS)
Robert Miller	Defence	(RM)
Dan Woodcock	Local Fishing Interests	(DW)
Ed Harland	Chesil and Fleet Nature Reserve/ Local Conservation	(EH)
Ovi Rominger	Dorset County Council Emergency Planning	(OR)

Apologies

Richard White	Royal Yachting Association & Yacht Clubs of Weymouth	(RW)
John Cranmer	Global Marine/ Shipping	(JC)
Maxine Chavner	Natural England	(MC)
Sam Dell	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	(SD)
Ian Taylor	Local Diving Interests	(IT)

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

a) Apologies, and round the Table Introductions
Apologies received as above,

b) Approval of minutes for publishing on website.
Members had no comments to raise and as such the minutes will be published to our website.

2. Matters Arising

a) Fishing in Portland Marina

This matter was discussed at length and MR decided the best way forward was for another meeting to be arranged with (MS)(TR) & (DW) to further explore how fishing should be managed within Portland Marina. Meeting date to be arranged.

3. Operation, Management and Regulation of the Harbour.

a) Curiosity Dive Park in Balaclava Bay (MS)
The underwater Curiosity Park was established in **2017** to provide a diving attraction in Balaclava Bay, the area has a number of artefacts including anchors, concrete statues, and concrete tubes. The licence holder for the area is looking to relinquish control of the area. We are awaiting feedback (via leaseholder) from Crown Estate and MMO in regards to seabed artefacts and what is legally required.

b) Green Ocean Farming
(FC) The informed the committee that the site had been abandoned by the leaseholder. Discussions are being held between the Port and Crown Estate regarding the disposal of infrastructure left on site.

c) Hamm Beach Users Group (MR)
No issues to report. The user group was generally in favour of our plans to reduce the size of the Seasonal Exclusion Zone.

d) Swim buoys expansion & Seasonal Exclusion Zone
A new General Direction has been issued regarding the size of the Seasonal Exclusion Zone. We have decided to trial a second line of swim buoys to mark the edge of the steep drop off into the fast-flowing waters of New Channel.

e) New Pilot boat (MS)
As announced before, we are purchasing a new pilot boat from Goodchild Marine. The hull has been manufactured, and all going well we expect delivery early next year.
Our present second Pilot boat will then be sold.

f) New Harbour Tug (MS)
The port has just purchased a new tug from China requiring the use of a heavy lift ship to bring it to Europe. This new tug will help modernise our fleet. We have also completed the sale of one of our existing tugs and our towage capability will be reduced for this period.

4. Harbour Incidents, Dangerous Occurrences & Near Misses

a) Incidents Leisure (MR)

MR – Reported that we have had 6 incidents ranging across all types of vessels. The breakdown is as follows.

- 1 kitesurfers rescued from new Channel beacon by RNLI.
- 2 boats broke their mooring and went ashore.
- 1 training incident (WPNSA/RYA) Near drowning.
- 1 Surface fishing nets in Newtons Cove
- 1 Yacht in trouble

b) Incidents Commercial (MS)

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

5. Tidal Works, Maintenance and Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

a) Tidal Works

None

b) Maintenance

i. Replacement of New Channel Beacon (MR)
The old rotten post has been removed and a new post has been located in the existing hole. The top platform is being refurbished and should be refitted by the end of June.

ii. Marina recommended route Marker Buoys (MR)
(TR) advised that Paul Swain was still the lead on this project, and he will endeavour to get the latest update from him. MS explained that we have a Trinity House Audit coming up soon where this issue will be raised.

iii. New Radar Hardware & Software
(MR) informed the members that the radar hardware was 10 years old and needed upgrading along with the latest software. Engineers are onsite undertaking the upgrade.

c) Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

None

6. Any other business.

None

7. Proposed future meeting date (Thursdays) – Early November 2024