

# PORTLAND HARBOUR CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

1100 – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 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 Pengelley	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	(RC)
John Cranmer	Global Marine/ Shipping	(KC)
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	(PS)
Richard White	Royal Yachting Association & Yacht Clubs of Weymouth	(RW)
Kevin Stone	Atlas Elektronik	(KS)
Ian Taylor	Local Fishing Interests/ Diving	(IT)
Cllr Paul Kimber	Dorset Council	(PK)

### Apologies

Stephanie Shillitoe	Natural England	(SA)
Nathan Cornwall	Manor Marine	(NC)

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

a) Facilitation of meeting (SW)

### 2. Matters Arising

b) N/a

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

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

MS informed members that yet again we were working under strict In-house COVID-19 measures with teams working in small bubbles to minimise contact, also staff are working from home where possible. JC updated members on the timeline of infection on the CS Sovereign. Presently there are no persons on board who have tested positive. The ship has been deep cleaned and most crew have gone home. Unfortunately, one person died in hospital in Aberdeen and 2 are in Dorchester Hospital at this time. The situation has been well managed by all bodies involved and situation is under guidance from Public Health England.

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

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MR stated that the access to the water had not been restricted in any way. We are advising anybody who goes afloat to comply with the Government Guidelines. Water users might find that the managers of slipways and facilities have closed off access to the water on their sites.

PA thanked the Harbour Authority for their ongoing help in these difficult times.

### c) Harbour Patrols CCSC Mooring Area (MR)

MR confirmed that day and weekend patrolling on the north shore had been increased but had not seen any unusual activity in this area.

### d) Publishing of HCC minutes on the website (MS)

MS confirmed this would be actioned once the website design has been updated.

### e) Fisheries Regulating Order update (SW)

Limited progress, currently with Defra. There is an action on us to answer some question. Eventually progress to a formal public consultation.

Question asked about scallop farming. Nothing further heard on the several order in the harbour. Peter Allam advised that the marine licence application in Weymouth bay was ongoing.

### f) Prosecutions (MR)

MR stated that we had successfully prosecuted a local fisherman for a number of offences. The main offence was the laying of a surface net in Newtons Cove where a swimmer swam into it. In total he was fined £500, this was his second offence of this nature recently.

### g) Port Marine Safety Code Audit (MS)

MS informed the committee that we have had a 6-month PMSC audit. The results were that we are fully compliant, and no actions are necessary.

### h) Oil Spill & Marine Pollution Plan update (MS)

Oil Spill & Marine Pollution Contingency Plan version 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 signed off by MCA and in place for 5 years.

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

MS described locations for STS, a typical transfer operation and the importance of the safety management systems that accompanies this activity.

SW described the need to apply for an Oil Transfer Licence from the MCA. The first step required that the harbour authority undertake a Habitat Regulation Assessment and consult Natural England. This had been done and NE agreed with the harbour authority's conclusions of no significant effect. The harbour authority are now preparing the application documentation including a supporting environment assessment/ statement. This includes specialist oil spill modelling. Members to be consulted on draft application prior to submission.

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Questions/ discussion included:

- Robert Miller – interest in likely start date, also frequency and duration. We indicated that ideally looking towards 1/ week but likely to be a gradual ramping up of activity. Duration could be as a guide 6 – 48 hours. Discussion about implications for noise range and MS agreed to give thought to adding G3 as an additional anchorage and follow up with Robert Miller directly.
- Peter Allam – queried protocols for managing operation and asked how it compared to bunkering. MS advised that likely to be similar but potentially more restrictive.
- Ian Taylor – queried whether presence of ordnance was a consideration for anchorages to which MS also agreed to consider further.

j) Trinity House Audit (MR)

MR informed the members that we are due to have our Annual Lights Inspection by Trinity House. Normally this would be done afloat by an TH Inspector, but due to COVID-19 restrictions this will probably take place by sighting the lights by CCTV and using Zoom or some such method.

k) Leisure Tariff (MR)

MR reported that there would be no increase in rates for the year 2021.

l) Seagrass off Castle Cove Beach (SW)

SW advised that we had received a request to restrict visiting vessels mooring in the seagrass area on the north shore and we were seeking feedback from members. We needed to understand where it was first.

Simon Pengelley advised that the IFCA were looking to expand their management to protected and unprotected seagrass so would be interested in progress we make. A colleague is testing sounding as a method of recording seagrass.

Ian Taylor had been involved in support to Community Seagrass Initiative project.

Ed Harland suggested drone for surveying area and indicated the area was quite narrow. Lin baldock and Matt Doggart are continuing surveys in the Fleet.

Simon queried our likely action, and we suggested a Local Notice to Mariners (advisory) of General Direction (enforceable).

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

a) Incidents Leisure (MR)

MR reported 18 incidents. Of these most were minor (lost kite, broken down boats etc) 3 were of note. A kite surfer received serious head injuries in an accident on Hamm Beach and was airlifted to Southampton Hospital. Nets were illegally laid in Newtons Cove and a swimmer swam into it but luckily was not entangled. And a chap decided to test his life raft at 0200 and ended up being rescued by the RNLI in the middle of the harbour.

b) Incidents Commercial (MS)

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MS Reported one incident between a tug and tow and sailing dinghy/coach boat. (poor lookout)

## **5. Maintenance and Improvement of the Harbour.**

### a) Tidal Works

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

MR CEFAS have engaged an outside company to replace their existing seawater intake pipe and intake filter structure. They did not realise the pipe was within Portland Harbour Limits and it would require a tidal works licence. We are now working with them to obtain a TWL, MMO licence and consultation with Trinity House on how it should be marked.

### b) Harbour Infrastructure

#### i. Queen's Pier Dredging Update (SW)

SW advised project complete although we had sought an extension on the marine licence to undertake our own checks. These had been held up due to a combination of COVID-19 restrictions and weather.

MS updated the latest berth charted depths after the completion of the dredging project. The outer arm of Queens Pier, north and south, are now at 11.0 M CD along with Outer Coaling Pier which is also at 11.0M CD.

### c) Maintenance

#### i. None

## **6. Any other business.**

SW advised were seeking a fishery representative to join the committee with some background provided by SW and also Ian Taylor. SW advised that she had discussed options with Bob Summerhayes of the Weymouth and Portland Fishermen and Licensed Boatmen's Association but also wanted feedback from members as well. Suggestion from members was that preference was for someone that fishes and uses the harbour, could represent other users as well as their own interests, also able to attend meetings. Paul Swain offered to provide list for our consideration, and harbour authority would also give further thought to options. Attending could be a challenge for fishermen because meetings can clash with fishing activity.

Cllr Paul Kimber advised that with the Dorset Council changes there was no longer a Port Health Committee. Also queried about survey of breakwaters. MS confirmed this is ongoing and happy for Cllr Kimber to put contact in touch if they had further questions.

MS advised that the port has placed an order for a new harbour tug from Sanmar shipyards, this is due to arrive in the port by the end of March 2021. This tug will replace one of the older port tugs and will increase the ports towage capability to three ASD tugs each in excess of 50T BP.

Kevin Stone – advised that business as usual and busy with an increase in activity.

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Ovi Romiger / Ed Harland – queried avian flu and if we had come across dead birds. Following message was included in the Zoom chat:

*Avian Influenza*

*Please keep dogs on leads*

*Highly Pathogenic Avian influenza H5N8 (bird flu) has recently been confirmed on this stretch of river.*

*There has been a number of similar outbreaks throughout the country in recent weeks.*

*In order to reduce the risk of spreading this disease we would kindly ask you to stick to the designated footpath and keep all dogs on leads.*

**DO NOT TOUCH ANY SICK OR DEAD BIRDS**

*Please report them as soon as possible to*

*DEFRA on 03459 33 55 77*

*If you have already touched dead birds, then wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water and call Public Health England – 0300 303 8162*

*If you own poultry or captive birds please follow extra biosecurity advice.*

*For advice and the latest information please visit:*

*[www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu)*

*This is one of the posters for avian flu.*

Ian Taylor – thanked the Harbour Authority in the way we had adapted to the issuing of Dive Permissions and how it had helped with his diving business.

John Cranmer – thanked the Harbour Authority in the way we had assisted with the COVID-19 situation and our help with the berthing of CS Sovereign during the New Year break

### **7. Proposed future meeting dates (Thursdays)**

Post meeting note - Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021 as Zoom meeting unless otherwise advised.