

**PORTLAND HARBOUR AUTHORITY (PHA)
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 22nd July 2021

1100 – Thursday 22nd July 2021

**Minutes of Meeting
(Online Zoom Meeting)**

Attendees

| | | |
|----------------------|---|------|
| Captain Mike Shipley | Portland Harbour Authority (Chairman) | (MS) |
| Mark Rowles | Portland Harbour Authority | (MR) |
| Sandie Wilson | Portland Harbour Authority | (SW) |
| Peter Allam | W & P National Sailing Academy | (PA) |
| 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) |
| Cllr Paul Kimber | Dorset Council | (PK) |
| Clive Thomas | Manor Marine/ Commercial | (CT) |

Apologies

| | | |
|---------------------|--|------|
| Simon Pengelly | Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority | (SP) |
| Ian Taylor | Local Diving Interests | (IT) |
| Stephanie Shillitoe | Natural England | (SS) |
| John Cranmer | Global Marine/ Shipping | (JC) |
| Dan Woodcock | Local Fishing Interests | (DW) |

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

- a) Facilitation of meeting (SW) – SW provided brief overview of how meeting would be managed.
- b) Approval of minutes for publishing on website (SW) – members to feedback comments post meeting.

2. Matters Arising

- c) Fisheries representative (MR)

Dan Woodcock accepted role as local fishery representative. Ian Taylor to remain on Committee as diving representative.

- d) Castletown Regeneration Project - Black Barge Beach (SW)

The potential removal of seaweed in front of the slipway at Black Barge beach was discussed at the previous meeting. The Harbour Authority have received no further contact since. If the situation changes members will be briefed. PK was keen to ensure that he was briefed so with duty of care to public in mind and EH explained that the beach includes excellent underwater habitat.

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3. Operation, Management and Regulation of the Harbour.

a) Port Operations – COVID-19 (MS)

The restrictions implemented at the start of the Covid situation regarding staff working arrangements and hygiene measures have not been relaxed even given the government changes in the lifting of some restrictions. We will be increasing the presence of the Harbour Masters RIB on the water this season as it is anticipated to be a very busy period on the water due to foreign travel restrictions.

OR explained that across the Local Resilience Forum there had been significant staff shortages and queried whether PHA had a similar experience.

MS explained that all the Harbour Authority staff had been fine with no incidence of Covid infection, this being one of the reasons we have decided not to change current working practices to ensure continuity of port operations.

b) HCC section on website (SW)

SW reminded members that there is a page on the harbour authority's website for the HCC and that members could now be contacted via email. PA to be contacted via HCC@portland-port.co.uk and SW confirmed that Dorset Council Emergency Planning would be contacted via their emergency planning email. The success of the website will be monitored and reviewed as necessary through the Harbour Consultative Committee. SW to test that CT email works.

c) Fisheries Regulating Order update (SW)

No further update.

d) Ship to Ship Transfer (STS - Oil) (SW) & (STS – GAS) (MS)

MS updated the committee of the two recent LPG transfers which took place in anchorage M6 (Portland Inner Harbour). Previous updates on STS operations mentioned most of the STS evolutions would take place at anchorage G6 (Portland Outer Harbour) due to the size of the vessels. However due to the small size of the two vessels involved in these operations an Inner Harbour anchorage was required. Both operations went well, the transfers were overseen by a specialist STS transfer company.

SW provided an update on activity with regards to the Oil Transfer Licence. It was explained that after the last meeting members had been consulted on the proposals informally, the documentation was then finalised and submitted to the MCA. The public consultation is underway closing on the 2nd August. Details of the consultation including documentation is available on consultation page of the harbour authority's web page.

PK made a general comment about the need to win people over and consider how this might be done. MS/ SW suggested the agenda item relating to the MCA training exercise may be helpful.

e) Oil Spill and Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (SW)

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SW explained that following the major update of the Oil Spill and Marine Pollution Contingency Plan that was completed in June 2020, PHA were planning a further update and consulting members on changes. Updates primarily as follows:

- following the latest review of the documentation in connection with Ship to Ship Transfer, this had led to the harbour authority deciding to make further updates to the Plan. Of particular relevance this included an updated standard operating procedure for pollution preparedness and response.
- Following the appointment of the new Harbour Master at Weymouth, a new MOU relating to mutual cooperation in the event of a pollution incident had been signed.

PHA are requesting feedback from members and other consultees by Wednesday 11th August 2021.

f) MCA Training Exercise (SW)

SW explained that PHA had been selected by the MCA to undertake their next training exercise. PS expressed their interest and would like to get involved if there was an opportunity. CT asked how it would impact on water movements. MS explained that most of the activity will take place within the controlled area of the port (around the main berths), Balaclava bay and some transits of vessels through East Ship Channel. A Local Notice to Mariners will be issued ahead of the exercise – very little disruption to vessel movements anticipated.

g) PMSC update (MS)

Our current Port Marine Safety Code auditors are Marico Marine, due to the departure of our Designated Person from this company Paul Brown has now been appointed as the replacement Designated Person by Portland Harbour Authority.

h) Operation of Personal Submarine in Harbour (MR)

MR explained to members that PHA had received a request to operate a 2 man submarine, on a private basis, to visit wrecks within the harbour. This was beyond our normal expertise and we are seeking some guidance from the MCA. It was put to the committee for their thoughts. A number of members were concerned and raised Navigational Safety issues with a craft operating just sub surface and the issue of surfacing in a very busy harbour along with hazards such as nets, divers, and persons spearfishing. The manner of rescue of a bottomed submarine was also raised.

4. Harbour Incidents, Dangerous Occurrences & Near Misses

a) Incidents Leisure (MR)

- MR – Reported that we had 8 incidents since the last meeting. 2 incidents involved resident bunker barges and leisure vessels. 1 vessel adrift and 1 ashore, 1 sunken tender, 1 yacht with fouled propeller, 1 breakdown and 1 incursion into the Controlled Area

b) Incidents Commercial (MS)

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

4. Tidal Works, Maintenance and Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

a) Tidal Works

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

MR provided recap to members that Cefas had 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 issues. A magnetometer and dive survey will be undertaken before works start. In regard to safety of navigation, discussion was held with Trinity house and it was decided that each pipe should be marked with its own Yellow Special Mark

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

SW provided recap to members that Jurassic Sea Farms Ltd were looking to make some changes to operations within Area A (the area closest to Weymouth). SW explained that there was no change to species but there would be additional lines at surface and at depth.

b) Maintenance

i. Harbour Outfall Markers (MR)

MR reported that 2 outfall markers (Portland Castle & Castle Cove Beach) had succumbed to corrosion and the weather. These needed to be replaced with new markers. PHAL and Wessex Water worked together, and both were replaced.

c) Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

i. Deepwater Relocation/ Disposal Site Update (SW)

All works are complete including post due diligence ecological survey. The report had been shared with NE. The report concludes no significant impact on the "Sea Pen" habitat although NE have noted that they consider there to be some impact but of a nature that is such that a recovery would be seen. PHA will follow up with the MMO with an aim to closing off the project. EH has requested a copy of the report.

ii. Deepwater Berth (SW)

SW briefed members that PHA were planning to undertake berth improvements at Deep Water Berth on Coaling Pier (see image shared below). The works are being advertised and Expressions of Interest are being requested by the end of July. This is followed by prequalification and tender stages. The purpose is to cater for the increase in the number of vessels using the port, and upgrade the existing berth to enable handling of people and cargo thus reducing pressure on OCP.

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iii. Radar and CCTV relocation (MS)

MR - Presently we have our Radar and Auto tracking CCTV camera situated out at the Distant Range on the North Easter Breakwater. It has been decided to move this equipment to the mainland to aid maintenance and overcome the problem of poor access. The new installation is going to be situated next to the Dutch Barn Site high up on the port property and will give the radar the best view of the inner and Outer Harbours.

6. Any other business.

None

7. Proposed future meeting dates (Thursdays)

To be decided