

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR  
AUTHORITY HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE, NEWTON FERRERS ON  
16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

Members

- |                          |                                 |                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| * Mr M J Oates– Chairman | * Mr D Southwood -Vice Chairman |                  |
| * Mr R Carter            | @ Mr D Drought                  | * Mr J Endicott  |
| * Mr T Holway            | * Mr D Hussell                  | @ Mr J A Leonard |
| * Mr M Mears             | * Mr A Matthews                 | * Mr A A Tubb    |

- \* Mr R Dearn – Harbour Master \* Mrs H Phillips

*\*Denotes attendance @ Denotes apology for absence*

**12/17 MINUTES**

Rodney Carter proposed that we accept the minutes of the last meeting, Dominic Hussell seconded it and it was unanimously agreed.

**13/17 MATTERS ARISING**

The proposed register of interests was discussed further and a form was shown to all members of the committee. Slight modifications were suggested and then it was proposed by David Southwood that all committee members complete the form, it was seconded by Tony Tubb and unanimously agreed.

Drakelands Mine – we contacted Devon County Council to ask if we could be included on their people to be notified if planning went in for the mine. They said that they did not have any applications at present and were not expecting any in the near future. Gerald Boalch indicated that further expansion would cross the watershed and would therefore impact on the Yealm.

**14/17 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**15/17 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

A new bank account needs to be set up to bring us within the limits of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. It was suggested that as the HM was leaving it might be an idea to have the administrator as one of the three signatories. After various discussions it was proposed by Martyn Oates that we start the process with the administrator and if necessary it can be changed to the new HM at a later date.

**Profit and Loss report**

As this is the first month of the accounting year the period and the activity year to date are the same.

Sales: This shows the total of the invoices that have been sent out at the beginning of January for the year.

Overheads: - A total of £1,167 was spent. This includes a light for the inner bar buoy, and a new inner core for the outer buoy, an invoice to Yealm Moorings for some maintenance work on buoys, the varnishing of the wood work outside the office, new strip lights and a spanner set.

### **Balance sheet**

1. The bank accounts to date are: Santander Current Account £89,971.63, Santander Reserve account £75,105.30 and the Barclays 10 day notice account which has a total of £75,216 in it split between Barclays 10 day notice account of £45,402 and the allocated reserve account of £29,802.

### **Cash flow**

The black figures on the Cash flow are the predicted figures as per the budget and the blue figures are what we actually achieved to date and future predictions. These are updated each month and tweaked for any known future costs.

The income came in quicker than was anticipated so we have reduced February's income figures to reflect this.

Expenses: A bill has now been received for the cleaning of the shower and toilets for the latter part of last year.

The insurance premium is slightly less than predicted for the year. We have had a revised rateable value for the business rates for the year and with the small business allowance we are not due to pay any rates for the coming year.

## **16/17 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

**Insurance** – David Southwood and HM met with our Broker, Blue Fin Insurance, initially on the 6<sup>th</sup> February and again on the 13<sup>th</sup> February. Based on similar cover to last year our premium would be £7,409.01. We were offered a long term undertaking for 3 years for the marine combined commercial policy which if taken reduces the fee by 5% per annum. A saving of £324.45 pa. Prices will then be held for three years. Tony Tubb proposed that we accept this, it was seconded by Rodney Carter and unanimously agreed.

With regards to the personal accident policy we will have an extra premium to pay when the new HM starts to cover the overlap period of about £30.

Bridgend Quay – Self-insurance. Minute 24/15 states that we should reconsider this on a regular basis. After considering the costs and the fact that both slipways either side of the quay are insured, it was decided that we would continue to self-insure it.

8/2 – SWRPA meeting. Concerns were raised about abandoned boats and the difficulties of disposing of GRP. There was also an interesting presentation on LIDAR surveying although we could not see a use for this here.

15/02 – Bio Security workshop in Totnes. This was on invasive non-native species and was looking at producing a Marine Biosecurity Plan. The presenter was putting together a document on what to consider when producing a plan. A number of questionnaires were completed on all aspects of harbours and marinas. The aim is to produce an overarching plan covering SW estuaries in general with a small estuary specific section. The HM suggested that the Yealm would prefer their own plan as our needs are very different to the larger ports. The proposed plans will be circulated by the 25<sup>th</sup> March as funding is about to run out.

28/02 – There will be Pacific Oyster monitoring carried out by Natural England and a number of volunteers. From Wide slip they will be allocated a section of the foreshore with a view to removing the Oysters on a regular basis. This will take place over the winter and spring months to ensure that the water is too cold should they emergency spawn,

1/03 – Proposed sewer dye test between 0800 -1400 on the area between the Harbour Office and Kiln Quay, and also the Brook to the Pumping Station. Yellow Dye is put in the system which is then pressurised. Drones and people will then spot any leaks. The dye may be visible for a few days in the river but is harmless.

## **17/17 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON**

Wembury – Absent

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Newton & Noss – The boathouse for the Green House did not receive planning permission.

Yealmpton – Brixton PC has asked Yealmpton PC to support a possible reconstruction of ‘Cylinder Bridge’ to make a circular walk between the parishes. Yealmpton PC recently reported ‘ It was decided that as long as permission to use the path from Puslinch Bridge to Cylinder Bridge is not jeopardised Cllr Hitchens should contact the landowner and come up with a proposal to put before YPC.’

## **18/17 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

Martyn Oates has been talking with the Department of Transport about our proposed changes to Byelaw 8 to enable us to increase our mooring license fees should the need arise when our rent is reviewed. Initial responses have been

promising. They will not allow an RPI linked amount but have suggested that we put forward our required wording and then they will advise whether or not this will be acceptable. Martyn Oates will look at doing this over the next few weeks.

## **19/17 AOB**

1. Andrew Matthews asked the Authority to note that the following points might be included in the Neighbourhood plan in relation to the Harbour.
  - Access via Yealm Steps to the river needs to be improved with policed parking on the road. It would be a good idea to approach Yealm Hotel at some point to see if they would grant access to enable the path to come down at an angle across their land.
  - The increased recreational pressure on the river needs to be borne in mind with all the new housing being built in the riparian parishes, if not in Newton and Noss.
  - Improve water quality in the estuary.
  - Boathouses and quays should be in proportion to the existing property. An important objective is to keep the waterfront as it is.

He will report back after any meetings to let us know what has been discussed.

2. Tom Holway suggested that we write to TECHf to enquire what the money earmarked for local conservation from section 106 building money is currently being used for and what are the plans for future money.

3. Rodney thanked the HM for sorting out Wembury steps repair so quickly.

4. The HM thanked David Southwood for his help with the insurance arrangements.

## **20/17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be held on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017** in the Harbour Office, Newton Ferrers at 6.00 p.m.

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**Chairman**