

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR  
AUTHORITY HELD IN THE WI HALL, NEWTON FERRESR ON APRIL 21st APRIL  
2016**

**Members**

- |                           |                  |                 |
|---------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| @ Mr D Drought – Chairman | * Mr M Mears     | @ Mr D Hussell  |
| * Mr A Matthews           | * Mr D Southwood | * Rodney Carter |
| * Mr A A Tubb             | * Mr J A Leonard | @Mr T Holway    |
| * Mr P Fellows            | * Mr M J Oates   |                 |
- \* Mr R Dearn - Harbour Master @ Mrs H Phillips – Office Administrator  
\* Mrs J. Leonard took the minutes.  
*\* Denotes attendance @ Denotes apology for absence*

Vice Chairman Martyn Oates chaired the meeting in the absence of Chairman Dermot Drought.

**01/16 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING 16th APRIL 2015**

The minutes of the last annual meeting were approved.

**02/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Moorings allocated 2015

12 x A, 6 x B, 12 x C, 9 x D

Moorings allocated so far in 2016

7 x A, 4 x B, 8 x C, 5 x D.

Poor weather in 2015 saw a fall in visitor numbers to 3617 compared to 4160 in 2014

In 2015 the Authority reduced Harbour Dues by 10% and for 2016 we have held those rates.

Over recent years and last year the Harbour Master has supervised much major works including the replacement of pontoons, the resurfacing of Bridgend Quay and the recent refurbishment of the main slipway at Bridgend Quay leaving our infrastructure in very good shape.

Despite the fall in visitor numbers and expenditure on infrastructure; our finances remain in a healthy position and our accountant, Peter Franklin, has praised the standard of Helen's bookkeeping as excellent

During the year, there have been a number of incidents. Neil Sutherland, a yachtsman was drowned whilst attempting to return to his boat. Our cctv proved invaluable in helping the police conclude that there were no suspicious circumstances.

In September there was a spate of thefts of and from boats, three youths were spotted acting suspiciously but could not be identified.

In October a sub committee was formed to explore the possibilities for cctv coverage of the harbour.

In November, Rear Admiral (RTD) Robin Hogg presented us with a very detailed report on the possible operational requirements for cctv and surveillance on the river. Robin's expertise in this area was very evident and we are very grateful for his input.

The subcommittee continues to explore the options for CCTV; there are many systems available but also many hidden costs and choosing the best value for money will take some time.

In February this year a car drifted off Noss Hard and finally sank in Noss Voss adding to the variety of a Harbour Master's life!

Our thanks to David Southwood for assisting the HM in finalising our insurance cover with Blue Fin Insurance brokers.

In conclusion my thanks to Bob and Helen for their terrific team work and indeed to the other members of the Authority which help to make an easy job for their Chairman.

**Dermod Drought**

### **03/16 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2015**

Peter Franklin presented the audited accounts for 2015 to the meeting. There has been a slight fall in income for the year, partly attributed to lower visitor numbers and the reduction in harbour dues. Wages are slightly up as a result of the wage increases. Rent, rates and insurance are similar to last year. Harbour Launch running costs are slightly down. The flat rate VAT scheme continues to save us money and our turnover is likely to remain well within the limits for this scheme. Interest from deposit accounts is up slightly due to increase in reserves. Peter confirmed that the RYHA finances remain in a healthy position and that the quality of Helen's bookkeeping was excellent.

Tony Tubb proposed that we accept the accounts that have been presented to the authority. This was seconded by Rodney Carter and John Leonard and unanimously agreed.

Questions from the floor were answered about protecting reserves by opening an account with another bank. It was confirmed that this was being investigated. Another question from the floor related to the purpose of holding relatively large cash reserves. Andrew Matthews advised that it is our policy to try to maintain around 2/3rds of turnover as reserves. It is intended that reserves be allocated against future projects such as pontoon replacement. The RYHA has acted to limit increases in reserves by cutting harbour dues several times in the last few years and no increases in harbour dues for residents or visitors have been imposed for 2016.

### **04/16 OPEN FORUM**

A member of the public queried ownership of Yealm Steps and commented on their poor condition. Rodney Carter clarified ownership of the steps as DCC with the land beneath belonging to the Yealm Hotel. It was suggested that the RYHA could make representations to DCC and that match funding of repairs may be an option. Andrew Matthews stated repairs may have to be a major re-design which could be problematic and expensive due to gradient and present structure.

### **05/16 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Tony Tubb proposed Martyn Oates as Chairman, this was seconded by John Leonard and unanimously agreed.

#### **06/16 ELECTION OF VICE – CHAIRMAN**

Tony Tubb proposed that David Southwood as vice chairman, this was seconded by Martyn Oates and unanimously agreed.

#### **07/16 APPOINTMENT OF BANK**

It was proposed by Andrew Matthews and seconded by Tony Tubb that we continue to use Santander Bank and Barclays Bank, this was unanimously agreed.

#### **08/16 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Andrew Matthews proposed that we continue to use Messrs Franklins Ltd as our accountants this was seconded by Rodney Carter and was unanimously agreed.

#### **09/16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the Village Hall, Noss Mayo at 6.00pm.

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**Chairman**