

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR  
AUTHORITY HELD IN THE SCHOOL HALL, NEWTON FERRERS ON APRIL 17th  
2014**

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 | @Mrs S Cooper   |
| * Mr P Fellows            | * Mr M J Oates   |                 |
- \* Mr R Dearn - Harbour Master      \* Mrs H Phillips – Office Administrator  
*\* Denotes attendance @ Denotes apology for absence*

**01/14 MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING 18th APRIL 2013**

The minutes of the last annual meeting were approved.

**02/14 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Happily 2013 was a much better year than the weather ruined 2012

**MOORINGS**

During 2013 some 34 moorings were allocated. This consisted of 14 A's 5B's 13 C's and 2 D's

So far this year 1A, 4 B's, 5 C's and 3 D's have been allocated. The wait for a deep water mooring has reduced over the last few years from over 20 years to about 12 years.

**VISITORS**

Visitor Numbers for 2013 were 3992, up from 3236 in 2012 but down on the long term average of around 4500 a combination of unfavourable weather and the economic situation no doubt played a significant role in the lower numbers. From my home I can see into Cawsand/Kingsand Bay and normally over a decent weekend there would be a forest of masts and a variety of leisure craft moored there. Not so over the past two years; one could easily count them on one or two hands.

Visitor fees are now unchanged for the fourth season so we are doing our best to encourage visitors.

**PONTOONS etc.**

Since 2010 the Authority has replaced both visitor pontoons, and most recently, Yealm Steps Pontoon.

In the last few weeks work has been completed on Yealm Steps Quay and we will shortly be undertaking resurfacing work at Bridgend Quay. This has all been

achieved without any increases in mooring license fees and while reducing harbour dues, a few years ago to the 2008 levels.

## FINANCIAL

Our finances remain very healthy and should remain so despite facing heavy bills to repair Yealm Steps Quay and Bridgend Quay.

## AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Richard Franklin presented the draft accounts for 2013 at the March meeting. He proclaimed them healthy etc. and made particular mention of Helen's efforts. Having completed her training course AAT level 2 as an account technician her bookkeeping etc. made the accountants work much simpler and indeed that of the Authority.

## CONCLUSION

I wish to thank Bob Dearn and his assistants on the water, Bob had big shoes to fill and I believe he has done a splendid job for us.

Helen Phillips our office administrator has improved our accounts etc. and together with Bob are a formidable team. They continue to monitor the moorings situation and I think we can all see the waiting times reducing. Everyone on the team is anxious to maintain fair play whenever contentious issues arise, were not perfect, but we try to be.

The Authority finds itself in a very positive situation with new pontoons and repairs underway, all we now need is a decent spell of good weather and maybe we will return to 4500 visitor numbers.

My thanks to the team for putting up with me as their Chairman

## **03/13 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2012**

Peter Franklin presented the audited accounts for 2013 to the meeting. There was an increase in our rates as a result of the reassessment, but Vickery Holman had ensured that this was minimal. Our Fixed assets are up £60k with the purchase of the new pontoons. A VAT inspection earlier in the year did not affect the flat rate scheme status and this continues to save us about £12k a year. The final bank balances show that the Authority is in a strong position and slightly above our target reserve of 50% of turnover. As a result of our capital purchases we will pay no Corporation tax in 2014, and will receive a refund of 2013 payment.

## **04/13 OPEN FORUM**

Philip Belsham made a request that a Defibrillator be attached to the wall by the Harbour office so that it is readily available in the case of an emergency. It has clear instructions on how to use it, but Phil is also proposing some training session on First Aid for anyone who is interested in attending. A simple check would need to be done to ensure that the battery is charged on a regular basis, a flag will show green or red. It was generally agreed that this was a good idea but concerns were voiced over insurance and any potential liability claims

if a member of staff was using it and something went wrong. The Harbour Master will contact our insurers to clarify this before a final decision is made.

#### **05/13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Andrew Matthews proposed Dermod Drought continues as Chairman, this was seconded by Peter Fellows and unanimously agreed.

#### **06/13 ELECTION OF VICE – CHAIRMAN**

Tony Tubb proposed that Martyn Oates continue as vice chairman, this was seconded by Martin Mears and unanimously agreed.

#### **07/13 APPOINTMENT OF BANK**

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

#### **08/13 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

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

#### **09/13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 in the Village Hall, Noss Mayo at 6.00pm.

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**Chairman**