

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER YEALM HARBOUR AUTHORITY
HELD IN THE HARBOUR OFFICE AT 18.00 ON 17th SEPTEMBER 2024**

Members and Officers in attendance:

Dominic Crawley – Chairman
Ian Kennedy
Nicky Tewson
Martyn Oates
Mark Steggles

Kevin Thomas
Tom Edie
John Stansell
John Endicott

Jez Spring – Harbour Master

Debbie Rhead- Office Manager

Apologies for Absence

Peter Hinchliffe and Stephen Maltby both sent their apologies.

Declarations of Interest

Nicky Tewson declared an interest in an item on the HM Report (Outhauls and Moorings above Madge Point) and left the meeting during the time that this discussion was held.

61/24 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2024 were proposed by Mark Steggles to be a true record of what was discussed, seconded by Nicky Tewson, and agreed by all other members who had attended that meeting.

62/24 MATTERS ARISING

None

63/24 CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from Peter Brown in connection to Bathing Water Status. This letter has been circulated to all Authority members prior to the meeting. See 68/24 for further comments.

64/24 FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses for July and August

In July our income was just over £20,000, and £21,000 in August. The bulk in both months was for Visitor Fees and KPC licences, with the rest being made up from the other income sources that we have.

In July our expenses were just over £9,200 and £10,750 in August and our overheads were just over £2,000 in July and just under that amount in August.

Comparison P & L YTD 2024 -v- 2023

As of August, our income is showing a £12,000 increase on the same period in 2023 and our direct expenses were down by £2,300. Our overheads were also down by just over £7,200 at this stage of the year compared to 2023.

Balance Sheet

Under current assets, debtors amounted to just over £2,339 – all outstanding invoices have been chased. A breakdown of these will also be given to the Committee members alongside the minutes.

Cashflow

The opening balance in July was £284,575 with a closing balance at the end of August of £289,725.

65/24 HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Incidents: There were 8 recorded incidents since the last Authority meeting all of which have been documented and recorded.

- 4 x broken down vessels requiring towing
- 2 x visiting boats becoming entangled with moorings
- 1 visiting boat collided with and damaged a mooring holder's vessel
- A visiting sailor falling into the water at night at Yealm Steps and briefly being entangled in the other tenders' painters.

Infrastructure: From Peter Hinchliffe – *“The only other thing in passing is the new bench outside the harbour office provided by Howard Swift. There are also plans to add another Howard bench at some stage in the future. Also, the MMO have now completed their determination, and it has gone for checking – more information on this will soon be available”*.

Visitor Numbers: 754 KPC Season tickets and 145 Day KPC tickets issued to date. The number of visiting boats in July and August was 2,053, significantly down on the last 3-year average for these months, which was 2,516. Total boat nights for the season (to date) are 4,361.

Bridgend Lift Out: This has now been moved to 31st October and detailed information to boat owners was sent out this week.

Boat Rallies: 4 x Boat Rallies (Salcombe YC, Maxi Owners, Weir Quay and RNSA) are scheduled to visit this month.

Fund raising Events: Beer Race: A successful and enjoyable event with significant amounts raised: RNLI (£840) and St Lukes Hospice (£1787). **Harry Martin 10 Year Anniversary Event:** The team cycled from Ilfracombe to the Swan Inn, Noss Mayo and later rowed from the Yealm out to the Eddystone Lighthouse and back. To date they have raised around £11,500 with proceeds being split between the RNLI and Dartmoor Search & Rescue Teams.

Outhauls and Moorings above Madge Point: A discussion was held regarding moorings and outhauls adjacent to the clear area above Madge Point. HM is to investigate the situation further and report back to the Committee.

66/24 STAFF APPRAISALS

The Chairman informed the Committee members that these had now all been completed and thanked all those concerned.

67/24 UPDATE FROM BUDGET SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman explained to the Committee that the Budget Sub-Committee had worked on the 2025 Budget and following some follow up work, the proposed budget would be ready to circulate to Authority members shortly. He was hopeful that this would be done over the course of the next 2 weeks, allowing for it to be discussed, amended, and agreed by the full Authority at the next monthly meeting in October.

68/24 BATHING WATER STATUS

The Committee discussed this and felt that the Authority's position had not changed [from that minuted in July 2023 minute reference 72/23]. However it was raised by the HM that should this be granted at any stage, it would potentially increase the number of swimmers to the river, raising the level of risk on the river. Kevin Thomas reported that NNPC felt that it was not in a position to encourage this application due to the lack of parking and toilet facilities. The NNPC felt there were better ways of improving the water quality and this should be led by more environmental evidence.

69/24 PARISH COUNCIL LIAISON

Wembury – Nothing to report.

Newton and Noss – Nothing to report.

Brixton – Nothing to report.

Yealmpton – Nothing to report.

70/24 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman reported that he had been advised by Ashleigh Phillips of Sanderson Weatherall, who are acting for the Authority regarding the Crown rent review, that there will be no rent increase on the Main River rent or that of the Harbour Office footprint. However, there will be an increase in the rental of Bridgend Quay. A provision for this uplift (from 01/01/2023) will be made in the current year's accounts.

71/24 MOORING APPLICATIONS AND PROPOSED MOORING ALLOCATIONS AND PARTNERSHIP REQUESTS

There were 2 new applicants requesting to join the moorings waiting list in July and August. There were 4 moorings allocated in July and August: 1 x A Mooring, 2 x B Moorings and 1 x D Mooring.

There were no Partnership Arrangements requests during this period.

72/24 AOB

There was a report of damage to Popes Quay and discussion on who holds responsibility for it. The Office Manager will contact the NNPC clerk to clarify this.
Pam Prosser has requested to install a memorial bench for her late husband on Bridgend Quay, the Authority were in agreement of granting this request, subject to a suitable area being identified.
Ian Kennedy informed the Authority of the sad passing of Martin Mears, former Chairman and previous longstanding member of the Authority.

73/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Harbour Authority will be on Tuesday 15th October 2024 at 6pm at The Harbour Office.

Chairman