

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

Date of Meeting: 3rd November 2022

1100 – 3rd Nov 2022

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

Attendees

Captain Mike Shipley	Portland Harbour Authority (Chairman)	(MS)
Mark Rowles	Portland Harbour Authority	(MR)
Frank Cox	Portland Harbour Authority	(FC)
Peter Allam	W & P National Sailing Academy	(PA)
Ed Harland	Chesil and Fleet Nature Reserve/ Local Conservation	(EH)
Robert Miller	Defence	(RM)
Paul Swain	Portland Harbour Small Boat Users/ Leisure	(PS)
Richard White	Royal Yachting Association & Yacht Clubs of Weymouth	(RW)
John Cranmer	Global Marine/ Shipping	(JC)
Stephanie Shillitoe	Natural England	(SS)
Dan Woodcock	Local Fishing Interests	(DW)
Kevin Stone	Atlas Elektronik/ Operational	(KS)
Ovi Rominger	Dorset County Council Emergency Planning	(OR)
Sam Dell	Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority	(SD)

Apologies

Ian Taylor	Local Diving Interests	(IT)
Cllr Paul Kimber	Dorset Council	(PK)

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

- a) Apologies
Received from Cllr Paul Kimber & Ian Taylor
- b) Introducing Frank Cox,(PHAL Planning & Consents Manager) & Sam Dell (IFCA)
(MS) Introduced Frank and Sam to the membership, they are replacing Sandie Wilson & Simon Pengelly, respectively.
- c) Round the table introductions
Members old and new, introduced themselves.
- d) Facilitation of meeting
FC continued as facilitator of the online Zoom meeting.
- e) Approval of minutes for publishing on website.
Members had no comments to raise.

2. Matters Arising

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- a) Concessionary Harbour Dues rates for Weymouth Berth Holders (MR) stated that this will be continued for now.
- b) WPNSA is bidding for a large kitesurfing event in 2023 (PA) informed the member that this event is not happening due to the Planning Inspectorate timelines. (PA) also thanked Natural England and Dorset council for their help and support.

3. Operation, Management and Regulation of the Harbour.

a) Ship to Ship Transfer (STS - Oil)

(MS) We have now been granted an STS licence (March 2022) for the transfer of oils. Social media reports this has taken place already, but this is not the case. The misconception appears to be the confusion between STS operations with normal bunkering operations. We have conducted three LPG STS's. Bunkering operations have taken place within the port for around eighteen years.

b) Oil Spill and Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (FC)

(FC) reported minor changes to the OSMPC to reflect the planned STS operations (SS) reported that Natural England had received an email from a concerned person regarding STS and asking what NE response would be in the case of a spill. They were referred to the OSMPC.

c) Trinity House Lights Inspection and defects (MR)

(MR) Annual inspection was undertaken, passed without a problem. Present defects Degaussing Range and Curiosity Park have buoys missing due to the recent severe weather. Remaining Curiosity Park buoy light has also failed and Deep Water Berth lights have been removed as part of the ongoing construction works. North Ship channel Traffic Signals are still out of action.

d) PMSC update (MS)

(MS) Currently conducted by Nash Maritime. Last audit was on 2nd August and 6 observations made, all of a minor nature. These were, missing the June HCC meeting, Informing the Board of Directors of the ports top 10 hazards, update RA on provision of Aids to Navigation, produce a Local Notice to Mariners regarding changes in Leisure Diving regulations and produce a RA review procedure.

110 Kitesurfing School & General Direction(MR)

updated the members that 110 Kitesurfing School were allowed a trial period where they instructed on the sandy area to the North of New Channel. No issues were reported, and they have now been incorporated into the General Direction regulating Kitesurfing. In fact, they have had a positive impact in helping others and undertaking several rescues with their safety boat.

e) 2P 7 4P Training (MS)

All outstanding 2P & 4 P training was undertaken in December 2021.

Also, an Incident Management Exercise was undertaken in January 2022, all are valid for the next 3 years.

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- f) Extra Seagrass buoys on Advanced Mooring Systems (MR)
A number of new Seagrass marker Buoys were laid in between the Ports existing buoys to really highlight the area. These buoys were laid on Advanced Mooring Systems so as not to impact the seabed with their mooring chains. The buoys were sponsored by the MMO and Salcombe Gin. (SS) asked if boats that had to be removed from the area were aware of the restriction, MR informed everybody that those who anchored in the seagrass were not aware and most were very aware of the sensitivity of these meadows and were alarmed that they might have caused some damage.
- g) Nets & Pots, Draft harbourmasters Direction for Hamm beach Area (MR)
A lengthy discussion took place on this subject. MR stated that PHAL proposes excluding netting and potting on the Hamm Beach due to the ongoing disregard of the in-force fishing regulations. (DW) would consult with local fishermen and come back with feedback. He was sure any further restriction would not be welcomed.
- h) Jurassic Sea Farms - Pacific Oysters (SS)
They are looking to sell Plot A, presently they have no stock on site. The Tidal Works Licence will be re-issued after consultation. They are undertaking their monitoring requirements, part of which is to survey under the site, and they are looking at the best way of doing this.
- i) Leisure Tariff (MR)
Generally looking at around a 10% minimum. The actual tariff increase will be a decision at the forthcoming harbour authority board meeting.

4. Harbour Incidents, Dangerous Occurrences & Near Misses

a) Incidents Leisure (MR)

MR – Reported that we have had 18 incidents ranging across all types of vessels. Some of note are.

- (i) PWC outside the harbour, 1 person injured
- (ii) Berthing vessel & 16 kayaks in Controlled Area
- (iii) E-Foil and rider caught by a unmarked surface fishing net.
- (iv) Unconscious man & dog in water
- (v) Various SUP incidents 11 in 2 days, increased rapidly this year.

(RW) asked about yacht moorings failures, MR reported 4 with one yacht presently on Worbarrow Bay beach. Failures are the same, no safety chains and shackles poorly fitted.

(SD) stated their fisheries boat had recovered 2 kite surfers and requested advice on reporting of incidents. MR stated that they should contact the CG and PHAL on Ch74.

(PA) pointed out that the type of kite is evolving, and the newer types are more difficult to re-launch.

b) Incidents Commercial (MS)

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

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5. Tidal Works, Maintenance and Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

a) Tidal Works

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

The works here are now complete and 2 new Special Marks have been installed to indicate the positions of the intake structures.

b) Maintenance

i. Replacement of New Channel Beacon & 3 Outfall daymarks (FC)

Need to replace these due to poor condition. We are planning to vibro pile these in the near future and are preparing method statements.

c) Harbour Infrastructure/ Improvement

i. Deepwater Berth (MS)

(MS) announced that works had started in mid-October. The plan is to extend DWB & OCP so the Port can manage 2 X 350-meter vessels (Cruise ships) at the same time, depth will be 12.0m on DWB and 11.0 on OCP. We will gain 16,000 m² of additional quayside space. This is a significant investment of £26m. It should be completed by 19th April next year and our first double cruise call is the 1st May

ii. Radar and CCTV relocation (MR)

Radar has been removed from the Distant range and re-located high up on the Port property at the Dutch Barn site. This still gives excellent coverage of the harbour and sea to the southeast. The radar tracking CCTV camera has been relocated to the lighthouse on A-head.

(ED) asked, did you lose coverage for small targets in the inner harbour, (MR) reported that there was a slight reduction in coverage towards the marina and a minor problem with sea clutter on when its particularly rough.

iii. Updating Signage (MR)

(MR) informed the members that we are undertaking a major project in replacing and updating all the signs around the harbour. Some are a bit faded, and a few are damaged.

iv. New Pilot Vessel (MS)

Presently we have 2 Pilot boats, and we are planning to replace one. An order has been placed with Goodchild Marine based in Lowestoft, delivery is planned for the 1st quarter of 2025.

v. MCA Pollution Equipment Storage (MS)

MCA are now storing some of their heavy counter pollution equipment on the Port premises. The Port has been given access to it should we have a requirement to utilise it.

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6. Any other business.

a) Pacific Oysters (SS)

(SS) wondering if there was any appetite for a stakeholder group to help limit the spread of Pacific Oysters within the harbour. They are slowly spreading along the south coast and when established can quickly form a reef and take over an entire shoreline. Where there are small clusters, it is possible to collect the clusters and keep on top of the problem. When they do reef it can restrict access to the shoreline due to how extremely sharp, they are.

b) (ED) asked about Hydrogen Storage Project at Portland Port. This is a follow on from Portland Gas and they are now looking at whether the site is suitable for hydrogen storage. This would happen well in the future. Also looking at possible LNG import facility.

c) (RW) asked about the fish farm out in the bay. (SS) stated that till going ahead but no MMO license in place as yet

d) FC) Plots BCD now coming on site and starting to site TWL & MMO have been issued.

7. Proposed future meeting dates (Thursdays) - 23rd March 2023 TBC