

BRIGHTLINGSEA HARBOUR COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 06 Sep 2023

AT THE WRECK HOUSE COMMENCING AT 1830hrs

Present:

Andrew Scott – Chairman

James Thomas – HM/CE

Duncan Nicholson - DN

Patric Foley Brickley - PB

Colin Watkins – CW

Daniel Stoker - DS

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
5304	Apologies Fiona Brown – FB	
5305	Minutes of Meetings held on 2 Aug 2023 Proposed, PB Seconded, DS	
5306	Matters Arising from those minutes Outstanding Actions log was reviewed.	
5307	Harbour master Report Shipping 3 x Ships; 2 x carrying cement, 1 carrying scrap. Marketing Facebook <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BH 4186 followers (70 since Aug),• FF 4889 Followers (158 since Aug). Harbour App 1059 + downloads. TikTok 52 Harbour Entry 1913 views up 176 since Aug. Foot Ferry Video 6195 up 1044 in Aug. Harbour Instagram 1239 Foot Ferry Instagram 1022 . Twitter 656 followers. Electric Boat article has been sent out to publishers. PMSC BHC are assisting CBC with the recovery of derelict boats from the Hythe at Colchester. The HM hopes to see some recoveries taking place in September. River Patrols have continued throughout the holidays and will now cease until next year. A survey has taken place of the state of the town jetty. The report is due end of W/C 04/09/23. Colne Leader suffered prop damage from driftwood in the Colne. Driftwood seems to be becoming more prevalent, the source is unclear; possibly abandoned boats at the Hythe.	

	<p>Colne Leader was grounded near the marina last week. HM reported that no damage had occurred. Lone Worker Tag is currently being tested.</p> <p>Maintenance Buoy maintenance is continuing to plan, launching No 10 tomorrow. Tide Gauges have been cleaned. Harbour showers drainage have been cleared of hair blockages. The Fieldgate Dock drain has been cleared more comprehensively.</p> <p>Operations Electric Boat. Lunch trips to the Black Buoy in Wivenhoe have resumed.</p> <p>The harbour is trialling rubbish bins placed on the visitor pontoon. The trial seems to be working well. It has highlighted much of the rubbish in the boat park bins is not from Yachtsmen.</p> <p>Apprentice Interviews have been conducted, selection on Friday 08 Sept. The apprentice will start the following week.</p> <p>The HM presented a summary of the cost associated with the water taxi and ferry. The water taxi, roughly, breaks even, while the ferry makes a small surplus that contributes to harbour costs.</p> <p>Visitors 733 visiting boats nights in August. The HM noted that the trend is upwards, even taking into account the weather. Annual visitor nights have increased by around 33% since 2019.</p>	
5308	<p>BTC Update</p> <p>Discussions are continuing between BTC and BHC over future operating arrangements for both the boat park and the town jetty.</p>	
5309	<p>Facilities Use</p> <p>The HM described a couple of situations in which observers had felt the harbour had treated people poorly. On investigation it was clear that there was a lack of communication by those expecting to use BHC's facilities. The HM highlighted the need for people to discuss their plans, if any help is needed from BHC with him in advance. The HM also noted that berth holders needed to use their allocated berth, only using other berths with the agreement of the Duty Harbour Master.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed the matter and resolved to address the issues further at the end of season meeting with local water sports clubs.</p> <p>The HM highlighted the community activities undertaken by BHC so far this year,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided subsidised ferries for the Colchester oyster season opening. • Raised £538 raised from the duck race for Brightlingsea first responders. • Funded CYC Fireworks in November. • Raised many thousands of pounds for the Regatta over the last 5 years. • Providing a subsidised, Smack and Barge Race water taxi. • Providing funding, safety direction and resources for Blessing of the waters. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invested in and took part in Brightlingsea events, Xmas Tree, Harbour Lights, Platinum Jubilee. • Financial support to Litter Picks. • Financial support to Schools week. • Patrols of the River Colne, beyond BHC's harbour limit. 	
5310	<p>PWC Update</p> <p>BHC has written to several organisations, either reminding of their responsibilities to help prevent anti-social behaviours associated with PWCs or asking for their support in tackling this issue.</p> <p>Acknowledgement responses to those letters have been received from CEO CCC, Leader of the Council CCC, Police and Crime Commissioner, Essex Chief Constable, St Osyth PC, Tower Estates. Commissioners were disappointed that we have yet to receive any response from Bourne leisure.</p> <p>The HM noted PWC Compliance has been generally good this season. This afternoon (2 August) 16 x PWCs gathered and left the Harbour, they were generally well behaved. On this occasion, Essex Police Marine unit was not able to deploy any assets to the Colne to monitor the PWC rider behaviour, suggesting we call 101 if necessary.</p> <p>Funding for the River Patrol has been sought from Colchester City Council but as yet not been forthcoming.</p>	
5311	<p>Matters Raised by Members</p> <p>DN would be seeking correspondence with Nick Aldred regarding the Antifouling projects. DS asked if HM had seen Plymouth Harbour eco walls. The HM stated he had and reminded and informed Commissioners that we had three fish habitats of our own in the East Basin.</p>	DN
Next Meeting	<p>Time 1830hrs, Wed 6th Sep 2023</p> <p>Venue Wreck House</p>	Next meeting biscuits; Daniel
Time Ended	21.00hrs	

Approved
15th Nov 23