

Watchet Boat Owners Association

Meeting Monday 14th May 2018
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet

Minutes

Present: 11 members were present

Apologies: Bob Hitchings, Sam Westmacott, Martin Stevens, Iain Lambert

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Ray Ventura read out the minutes of the last meeting. Approval of minutes proposed by Chis Danby and seconded by Mike Yuill.

2. Matters arising

- i. Cotton Street – short discussion about what Janet Tapp at ‘Cotton Street’ haberdashery shop is able to produce. Mike and Cathy Yuill have had a WOA (Westerly Owner’s Association) logo with their boat name stitched on to their fleeces. The cost for the design is £30, but each logo sewed onto a fleece after this (even with a change in the boat name), will cost only £5. Members will need to contact Janet directly for this service if they wish, although the WBOA could fund their own main logo for the £30, and then the cost to members to add the name of their boat to this logo will only be £5.
- ii. Watchet RNLI Sea Festival feedback – the WBOA presented a cheque for £1000 to the RNLI, and Bruce Scott also presented a further cheque as a result of a donation by the Boat Museum. Overall money raised for the RNLI over the weekend was approximately £3,500.
- iii. WBOA Quiz Night (30th April 2018) feedback – the evening at the Esplanade Club was thought to be a success, with about 7 teams in attendance and all having an enjoyable evening,
- iv. Social event – following discussion at the last meeting, Cathy Yuill suggested that the WBOA has an ‘end of season’ skittles event, to include food. The preferred venue was agreed as the British Legion Club. It will be arranged at the end of September/October 2018, with Marina staff and boat owners to be invited. **(Action: Cathy)**
- v. Rowing update (Chris Webb) – the equipment is not at the Portakabin in the Yard yet. An announcement will be made on FaceBook as to when the re-launch of the rowing section of the WBOA is planned, possibly in late May/June 2018.
- vi. WBOA Website – Cathy and Mike Yuill have met with Bob Hitchings about setting up the WBOA website on its own server. This is yet to be progressed. **(Action: Mike and Cathy)**

3. Officer’s Reports

- i. **Chair** – apologies given
- ii. **Commodore** – not present
- iii. **Secretary (Ray Ventura)**

Brian Rich is currently in hospital and Ray has brought a card for all to sign for him from the WBOA.

- iv. **Treasurer/Membership Secretary** – apologies given

v. Other Officers

Health & Safety: (Rick Holt) – a skip is needed to tidy up rubbish in the yard, which is beginning to build up. **(Action – Ray Ventura to speak with Martin Stevens regarding the WBOA funding a small skip, which will cost about £210.)** Rick also expressed concern about a trailing yellow cable/lead that runs from one of the boats, up to the polytunnel, but it is disconnected.

Vice Chair: (Chris Danby) – stated that it is difficult to get enthusiastic about progressing the plan to create disabled access to the WHM in view of the level of mud in the harbour. He also said that it is also difficult to secure sponsorship with the harbour in the current state (e.g. ladders smashed, and the slipway requires jet-washing). Chris asked if anyone else wanted to take on the disabled access project. Mike Yuill suggested that we put the project on hold currently, until there is an improvement with the mud situation.

4. Watchet Marina Feedback (email from Iain Lambert, read by Ray Ventura)

- The post-Cardiff WID report by Dr Rob Nunney is nearing completion and will be ready by the end of May. Initial findings are that the WID was successful in the marina and a similar sized piece of kit has a place to play in the maintenance dredging of the basin. As a result, WHM is exploring various options to build a similar machine for future use.
- The WHM cutter-suck dredger is still being repaired. As soon as it is ready, she will take to the water and will get cutting.
- Alternative capital dredge options are being explored for the Autumn/Winter.
- Once Dr Nunney's report is completed, it will be presented to the Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee, before being released to other interested parties. Thereafter, a short, medium and long-term plan will be drawn up for costings analysis, funding and implementation.
- Taunton Deane continue to give their full support to this process. Clearly, the mud in the harbour is a priority, and Iain will have more detailed information in time for the next WBOA meeting.
- Iain gave his ongoing thanks to the WBOA members for their patience.

Brian Mitchell (Silt & Mud Group) then addressed the meeting in relation to his concerns regarding dredging licenses. His, and S&M's intent, is to carry out an experiment using an air injection dredger in Watchet. Discussion included that a dredging license refers to having a permit to dump mud, which is synonymous with dredging.

5. East Quay

Ray Ventura has been in contact with Tim Taylor concerning the East Quay planning application. Tim has a few minor concerns re the shower block, but his main concern related to the marina parking, as this has not been addressed in the application. Ray raised with the Council that the priority must be to address the mud first. It was also highlighted that the Environment Agency has also raised concerns regarding the need for a flood risk assessment.

6. Any Other Business

None raised.

7. Time meeting closed: 1955 hours