

Watchet Boat Owners Association

Meeting Monday 10th September 2018
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet

Minutes

Present: 12 members were present. Chair: Chris Danby

Apologies: Ray Ventura

1. Minutes of the last meeting (13th August 2018)

Read out by Chris Danby and agreed by those present at that meeting as correct.

2. Matters arising

- A tractor/cutter has been used in the yard to cut the higher bushes and clean up the yard.
- Martin Stevens has checked that the WBOA's public liability insurance does cover all aspects of the rowing section of the club; it mainly covers damage to other vessels, but is up for renewal soon.

3. Officer's Reports

i. Commodore (Bruce Scott)

Nothing to report

ii. Vice Chair (Chris Danby)

Nothing to report

iii. Secretary (Ray Ventura)

Apologies given

iv. Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Martin Stevens)

Membership has been closed off to the existing members and the subscription has been paid to the Esplanade Club. Membership now stands at 45 members. A number have not renewed. We need to be active on the pontoons in encouraging WBOA membership.

Some people have asked what a membership can offer to them and Chris Danby discussed that it isn't readily evident as to what the WBOA has achieved 'behind the scenes'. He summarized that the WBOA set up the Mud Group, such that now the Marina and Council are now speaking about the mud/silt in the harbour. Additionally, Martin is a member of the Watchet Harbour Board and Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee, representing the WBOA. This morning, he attended a Harbour Board meeting where the need for dredging in Watchet was discussed. Martin explained about the MMO (Marine Management Organization), which is reviewing WHM's dredging license. In view of this, Iain Lambert has approached international dredging consultants for advice relating to dredging in the marina.

v. Yard Officer (Brian Rich)

Not present

vi. Health & Safety Officer (Rick Holt)

Not present

vii. Rowing Secretary (Chris Webb)

Not present. Martin reported that the rowing is progressing well, and the people involved are very keen to row. Porlock have now set up a Gig club and so will be purchasing a vessel, and there is a club in Burnham. Comwich have also bought a plastic Gig and have hired a wooden Gig for competitions. They are using the Huntspill River, and are

agreeable for WBOA members to row with them. The WBOA rowing section is keen to restore the wooden boat in the yard to its former glory and get it back on the water. The hull is sound, but the decking needs work. If you want a row, contact Chris Webb. Some members have set up a small Facebook group to arrange rowing.

4. Watchet Harbour Marina Feedback

Martin Stevens gave a verbal report from Iain, who is totally focused now on getting the WID (water injection dredger) up and running in about 6 weeks time. He has formally applied to West Somerset Council, who can issue a license for WID, but not for mud disposal. This was well received at the Harbour Board meeting this morning by the Council, however there needs to be an environmental impact assessment before the license can be issued.

The WID can deal with soft silt, but not with the compacted mud, as it won't break it down enough to put it into suspension. It is a maintenance device, but will make a start. Dr Nunney has determined that the old cutter suck will only work at 40% efficiency and is supporting Iain re this. The pipes have had to be removed.

If a 'full-depth navigational dredge' can dredge down to the bedrock, then the WID will only be needed every 8 tides, twice per month continuously (i.e. on spring tides). The proposal is therefore that a major dredge is needed first to get down to the bedrock. Iain is examining this, but it is involving the MMO, the Environment Agency and the Crown Estates. The Council also knows that this will be needed in the outer harbour, but the cost of such a dredge is as yet unknown. The Mud Working Group is considering potential funding sources for a one-off dredge (e.g. from the Coastal Communities Fund), but maintenance using the WID will need to be demonstrated. Martin is put together a project applying for funding for a major dredge from the Coastal Communities. The Council is researching Watchet's dredging history in order to show the MMO that a historical precedent exists re the dumping of mud, so that a license isn't required. Overall, we are making progress by encouraging the Council in the right direction. Martin suggested that the Harbour Board highlight their efforts to the Watchet public.

5. Social Events – skittles night

It was agreed that Cathy Yuill continue to arrange this night in the next month, with the British Legion being the preferred venue, and including a buffet meal. This will be for WBOA members only and their spouses/partners, to increase member socializing. For next season, it would be good to have some fun boating events, even with dinghy's/rowing inflatables.

6. WBOA Website

As Bob Hitchings has now left the WBOA, it was agreed that the website be migrated to a new part of the server, but using the same company as Bob was using (as all of the information will be moved in the same format). It was reported that this happened successfully in Combech. It should be kept it simple, to include members news, and cruising news. Cathy and Mike Yuill to contact Bob and progress.

7. Any Other Business

- Update on the Onion Collective planning application on the East Quay: there has been no further information relating to this.
- The RYA has produced a new boating app (SafeTrx), which has replaced the old CG66. Concern was expressed that it would be 'battery heavy', but settings can be changed. If you register with this, the RYA will need to know your VHF call sign and MMSI number, and you can also register your EPIRB too, if you have one.
- Nick Pelling passed away beginning August 2018. His wife (Julie Pelling) is keen to keep their boat ('Annabel', a Westerley) afloat. She doesn't want to have to sell the boat if she can't use it, and so has requested support from the WBOA to help her practice berthing/engine checks etc. She is also keen on progressing any sailing opportunities for the disabled. Contact Martin Stevens if you are interested in providing support to Julie.
- Dinghy for sail – a small Flatner – made by the late John Nash. Price £400, ONO. Contact Bruce Scott through the Watchet Boat Museum, if interested.

8. Time meeting closed: 20:25