

**Watchet Boat Owners Association
Meeting Monday 10th December 2018
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet**

Minutes

Present: 13 members were present
Apologies: 4 members gave their apologies

Ray Ventura chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Ray read out the minutes of the last meeting.

2. Matters arising

Live-aboard situation: Ray reported that the Council is reviewing the situation, but there is little news on this, including from Tim Taylor (TT). Concern about people living aboard their boats might be related to the payment of rates, although TT pays rates for the marina. Martin reported that the RYA has provided previous guidance regarding this; such that if you are not on a permanent mooring (i.e. where your boat can be moved at any time), then rates can't be charged. This may be different for boats on the hard standing.

All other items were covered under the agenda of the meeting.

3. Officer's Reports

- i. **Commodore (Bruce Scott)** – not present
- ii. **Vice Chair (Chris Danby)** – nothing to report
- iii. **Secretary (Ray Ventura)** – Ray reported back from his meeting with TT (see below).
- iv. **Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Martin Stevens)**
 - Membership now stands at 51, with a new member who was looking for somewhere to build a small 11-foot long boat in the yard/in the shed. He is to liaise with Brian Rich about this and is planning for a 6-month build time.
 - Martin attended the West Somerset Harbour Board Meeting to make the Harbour Advisory Committee recommendation that they have a standing Marina representative on the Harbour Board. The Chair was very supportive of this and therefore there is a good chance it will happen. However, as it will have to go through a full Council meeting, there is likely to be a delay, in view that the new Council will not be in place until May 2019. Martin will continue to pursue this (**Action: Martin**). It was noted that Chris Hall is moving to a new post in the Council, but has committed to a full handover to his replacement.
 - The Council has decided to delay any funding bid for a full-depth dredge of Watchet Harbour, until trials of the WID by the Marina have been completed. Additionally, the Council has to generate an Environmental Impact Assessment to enable them to issue a dredging license to Watchet Harbour Marina; a previous EIA has been used historically for dredging purposes.
 - The Port Ops Manual for Watchet and Minehead contains some inaccuracies (e.g. there is advice to call Ch. 16 and Ch. 70 in the event of an emergency, and there is no phone contact). It will also need to be rewritten when the Council changes (as it contains named individuals who may change roles).
 - The Deputy Harbour Master has been actioned to attend a VHF training course, as he does not have a VHF license.
- v. **Yard Officer (Brian Rich)** – Reported that the tractor is fine.
- vi. **Health & Safety Officer (Rick Holt)** – There is starting to be a bigger build-up of rubbish in the yard (and people have dumped rubbish at the entrance). The hedge-cutting job was very good, and otherwise the yard is good. He requested that the WBOA consider putting a different roof on the poly-tunnel, but Brian Rich reported that this can only be done in the summertime temperatures. Rick to talk to Brian about planning this in the spring (**Action: Rick**).

- vii. **Rowing Secretary (Chris Web)** - has given apologies

4. **Watchet Harbour Marina Feedback, including feedback from meeting with Tim Taylor**

Ray Ventura reported on a positive, convivial meeting with TT yesterday, which included the following:

- i. **Marina Staffing:** Iain is going to permanently/full-time take over the dredging programme in the harbour, including trials and training etc. Matt is to take over the wet marina responsibilities, with Owen remaining in the shop.
- ii. **Dredging Plan:** The production of the WID is going very well and is nearly ready. It should be in the water and doing trials by January 2019, to try to retain water in the marina before the start of the spring/summer season. They are working on the jets and power of water injection, with the intention of cutting further into the mud than the Cardiff trial. In view of this, the consideration of preparing a business/sales plan to complete a full-depth dredge is currently suspended. TT reported on the work by Iain to complete a capital dredge using tractor/diggers, but he expressed concern about the gate if this dredging process was used. As well, he had no ideas about financing this, as he has invested approximately £100k so far on the WID, and therefore is not able to invest further in a full-depth dredge. Additionally, he is uncertain as to what this would entail, but if it were needed, he would like support from the WBOA to develop a business plan for funding. TT feels the old dredger still has a role to support the WID, in cutting away the very hard mud and sweeping up some of the firmer matter, to put it into suspension.
- iii. **East Quay Planning Application:** Ray did speak with the Onion Collective who are looking for £7m for their approved planning application, but this doesn't include improving the mud situation in the harbour. The Marina and Council have been working together regarding the planning application, and TT reported that he is clear about the impact (e.g. re parking: the Marina has an allocation of 70 spaces, although Ray asked if this is sufficient). TT is awaiting feedback from the Council over some minor issues in relation to the lease and, although he has been waiting about 8 weeks for this feedback, it seems that his discussions with them are going well. There was also some discussion about the strength/situation of the East Quay wall, and impact of core samples from the quay wall.
- iv. **Comms and fees:** TT will not give an outright statement about reducing berth holder fees, as he feels he is pouring money into the Marina. Yet, he will try to do all he can to minimize the situation in relation to any increases in fees next year. Ray challenged TT regarding his lack of direct communication with berth holders, which was without criticism of his operational staff, as Iain has usually provided a monthly update report to the WBOA meetings. TT reported that he will try to attend the WBOA meeting in February, as he is unable to come to the meeting in January.

5. **WBOA Christmas Skittles Evening: Saturday 15th December 2018**

Cathy Yuill gave an update on the Christmas Skittles evening planned for next Saturday at the Royal British Legion Club, with 27 people confirmed as attending. A buffet has been arranged from Sam's Deli in Watchet, and the WBOA has agreed to buy all attendees their first drink. All attending were asked to bring an item for the raffle, to raise money for the charities: Elliott's Touch and The Royal British Legion. Ray to email all to ask if any people are vegetarian re the buffet.

6. **Any Other Business**

- i. **WBOA Website** – Cathy Yuill gave an update on the website, which has been re-set up by John Richards (Watchet Web Design). Cathy will have admin rights to add content to the website, and her and Mike Yuill will continue to liaise with JR.
- ii. **WBOA Social diary 2019** – Cathy Yuill reported that she was putting together a WBOA social calendar, with events planned every 2 months (Feb/April/June/August/October/December), but is reviewing when other Watchet events are, so we don't clash with them. Will bring the draft to the next meeting.
- iii. **AGM Feb** – Ray Ventura reported concern that the WBOA is lacking in active Committee members and therefore want to encourage others to be involved, to provide support to the social programme etc. He asked all to put the word out.

Time meeting closed: 0830 hours