

Watchet Boat Owners Association
Meeting Monday 12th June 2017
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet

Minutes

Present: Martin Kent, Robert Smith, Roger Lancaster, Iain Lambert, Ray Ventura, Martin Stevens, Bruce Scott, Rick Holt, Sally Holt, Cathy Yuill, Mike Yuill

Apologies: Chris Danby, Brian Rich, Bob Hitchings

Ray Ventura chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Ray read out the minutes of the last meeting (8th May, 2017). All present agreed that it was a fair representation of the minutes, which were agreed.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

3. Officer's Reports

i. Chair

Not present.

ii. Commodore

A new poly-tunnel is needed for the boatyard, and Bruce has been researching prices, following the measurement of the current poly-tunnel cover. He has secured a price for a white poly-tunnel cover of £540, inclusive of VAT, which all considered was reasonable. The current poly-tunnel cover is sagging badly and it will be necessary to replace this in the summer, to allow for it to be stretched properly. Bruce has suggested that the Boat Museum contributes to the cost, but he is to seek further advice regarding this. He is also to source other prices for the replacement cover.

Action: Bruce

iii. Secretary

- Ray reported that the lock to the gate in the Boatyard last week appeared to be locked, but in fact the gate was unsecured. Roger also reported a disturbance in the Yard three weeks ago, and therefore he queried whether or not there had been a break-in. Therefore all were advised to exercise diligence in relation to the Yard.
Action: All
- All agreed to sponsoring the cost of a band at the 'Watchet Summertime 2017 Festival', which is split between the WBOA and Watchet Harbour Marina (£100 each).
- All agreed for WBOA to donate £100 to the 'Elliot's Touch Charity', sponsoring a page in their calendar. Roger's daughter is involved.
- With regards to the potential crew-lift for disabled people in the Marina:
Following contact with the RYA, Ray, Martin and Iain met with Leon Ward, RYA

Sailability Disability Sailing Officer. There are opportunities for a lift in the Marina, but financing will be needed to support the development of this. On 21st June, a visit to the Plymouth PDSSA (Plymouth & Devon Schools Sailing Association) is planned, to discuss types of lift and sources of financial support. Leon has offered support throughout.

- Martin has also been asked about disabled access by Watchet Sea Scouts.

iv. **Treasurer/Membership Secretary**

Martin reported that just over 40 people have renewed their membership; therefore, payment from 20 people is awaited. He requested from Ian that there is a push on WBOA membership via berth-holder applications at Watchet Marina. Ian agreed to this.

v. **Other Officers**

- **Safety Officer** – Rick reported that the boatyard is cluttered and messy, and hedges are beginning to cover up the fire boxes. He is concerned about the bank of trees, which needs cutting back. Brian would like to move some boats around to get rid of the 'dead boats', some owners of which have outstanding fees owing. Ian reported similar problems in the Marina boatyard. He suggested that WBOA and the Marina collate details of these boats and work jointly to serve notice to their owners; if there is no response, then to sell the boats to recoup outstanding berthing and storage debts.

It was agreed there was a need to ensure finality in the letter to owners of these 'dead boats' where debts are owed, to inform them that the WBOA will dispose of them, unless the owners approach the committee if they are unable to pay and would like support from members with this.

4. **Feedback from Onion Collective regarding East Quay proposals**

Ray gave the meeting feedback about an email he had received from the Onion Collective discussing the East Quay plans that were apparently about to be submitted to the Council. In view of this, he had written to Naomi Griffiths, assuming that they had reached agreement with both the Marina and the Council to develop the land. Iain reported that as yet no agreement had been sought from Tim Taylor, the lease-holder of the Marina.

Ray reported that he would attempt follow this up with Naomi Griffiths to attempt to establish the actual position. **Action: Ray**

Martin had attended a meeting of the Coastal Communities, and it was reported that funding has been taken from other Watchet projects to be given to the East Quay project

5. **Other items**

▪ **Watchet Marina Feedback – Iain**

- i. The cable on the dredger has been repaired and it is now up and running and working well. It was repaired by Karl, the engineer, who is working one day per week for the Marina, and who has also serviced the crane.

- ii. Dr. Rob Nunney spent a day at the Marina and has taken samples of the mud from the dredger discharge for analysis, and is evaluating current progress. He reported that it is 'water borne silt' and not mud. This is the beginning of a long evaluation process. There is also some uncertainty as to whether or not the current dredging machine can agitate the silt sufficiently.
 - Chris Hall from the West Somerset Council also visited the Marina and was really impressed with the dredging efforts. In view of this, there is no longer the need to write another report.
 - Dr. Nunney is also currently considering a medium to long-term plan for dredging the Marina.
 - Iain, Rob, Chris and Capt. Keith Badsey have agreed to meet in the future to discuss this matter also. Future consideration may include a 'discharge system', comprising the use of agitating the silt to smaller pipes, leading to a large one to remove it from the harbour. Otherwise, a mini water injection system may need to be devised, mounted on a boat, to agitate the silt so that it goes out on the ebb. Overall though, good progress is being made.
 - The intention of WBOA is to ensure that the Council is talking to Iain, and offer support when required.
 - Iain would like to progress the silt management plan and intends to report back to WBOA. **Action: Iain**

- iii. Iain also met with Simon Spalding from Hinkley Point, regarding potential future links with Watchet Harbour and the Marina. It is likely that Hinkley will store sheet piling on a tug in the outer harbour for a few months. Additionally, some vessels from Comwich will be relocated to Watchet during works being carried out there.

- iv. Update on berthholders to the Marina – Iain reported that although they are losing a few boats, which are moving elsewhere; overall they are up on numbers.

- v. The Balmoral visited Watchet Outer Harbour. The Marina did the 'comms' and acted as Berthing Master.

- vi. Iain reported that he is enforcing car parking for berth-holders on the East Quay, by placing a letter on non-berth-holder cars, warning them that they should not park there. All berth-holders who park vehicles on the East Quay should obtain a car pass from the marina office.

- vii. Feedback regarding the Onion Collective plans:
 - The Onion would like a car park in the 'triangle' area.
 - Iain is working with Tim Taylor to develop the boatyard so as to enable the operation of an efficient marina (i.e. a 10 metre-wide road strip is required to service the boatyard).
 - Loos, showers and the laundry will need to be rebuilt for the berth-holders.
 - 24/7 access will be required to the boatyard.
 - £38,000 will be required to fund the fencing, but the Onion Collective are not likely to contribute to this cost.
 - Iain presented the position of the Marina to the Onion Collective, and this has also been communicated to the Council. These include concerns about car parking; 55 spaces are required for berth-holders.
 - Further news and development is awaited.

6. Any other business

- Comwich Rowing Club has requested the use of the WBOA boats - possibly the gig.

7. **Time meeting closed:** 20:30 hours