

Watchet Boat Owners Association

Meeting Monday 8th May 2017
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet

Minutes

Present: 16 members were present

Apologies: Brian Rich, Ian Lambert

1. **Minutes of the last meeting**

No minutes available for the last meeting.

2. **Matters arising**

No matters arising.

3. **Officer's Reports**

i. **Chair**

Nothing to report.

ii. **Commodore**

The Commodore reported that John Nash, the founder of the WBOA, has died. He had requested that there be no funeral.

iii. **Secretary**

RV read out a report from Ian Lambert, WHM Manager, who was unable to attend the meeting:

- 1) CBYC Rally Bank Holiday weekend – there were 28 visitors, of which 17 were in the rally. Everyone was pleased with the marina and the wet berths available, and it was good to see the marina busy.
- 2) The Shanty Rally has been cancelled. Could this be a future event arranged jointly by the marina and WBOA?
- 3) Dredging – problems reported with dredging the harbour, due to staff sickness, course attendances, and the cutter head cable, which has snapped.
- 4) Mud – IL held a meeting with Dr Rob Nunney last week, who will be evaluating the current dredging programme in the marina later in May. Chris Hall, from Taunton Deane Council will also be in attendance to view the operations first hand.
- 5) Capital dredge/maintenance dredge – IL is working hard to involve Keith Badsey (CF Spencer), Chris Hall (Taunton Deane Council), and Dr Rob Nunney in devising a long-term dredging plan for both the inner and outer harbours. Once he has this in place, he will present it with a view to raising funds to carry it out. IL requested that he take the sole lead on this, as if too many people are involved, it would risk duplication of efforts.

iv. **Treasurer/Membership Secretary**

There are a number of membership renewals outstanding, although they are coming in steadily. MS reported that "it is like getting mud out of the harbour".

v. **Other Officers**

- Rowing: there is a lot of rowing taking place in Minehead, but not a lot in Watchet. Chris Webb is keen to progress this.
- Health and Safety: nothing to report.
- Cruising: BH reported there is a cruise to Swansea planned on Wednesday 10th May.

4. Any other business

- i. Transfer of boat from Isle of Mann
A prospective berth holder wishes to bring his catamaran from the Isle of Mann to Watchet, and is requesting the support of a crew and skipper. Contact RV or IL if interested.
- ii. Harbour Advisory Committee Meeting
MS summarised points from both the recent Watchet Harbour Advisory Committee Meeting and the Harbour Board Committee Meetings. The Harbour Advisory Committee meeting was a useful one in that, it was well attended by Counsellors and other interested parties and that a useful, constructive discussion took place. MS promoted to the Committee about the health and safety aspects of the harbour and the risks associated with the mud. The messages that came from both committees is the need to tackle the issue of the mud using a collaborative approach between all interested parties. Captain Badsey, who was also present at the HAC meeting, is producing a Marine Safety Manual on behalf of the Council, which he plans to publish in September 2017. MS also pressed for the support of the WBOA of Ian Lambert's efforts to negotiate with the council and other interested parties.
- iii. WBOA Social Activities
Some discussion took place among the members present, that as a result of WBOA unrelenting focus of WBOA on mud in the harbour, it would also be good to have some social activities to lighten the mood over the summer period. Suggested possible activities were a barbeque in the boat yard, along with a sea shanty evening. It was also suggested that the rowing section of the WBOA be activated, in conjunction with the Minehead rowers.

BH suggested the need to agree a date for this to be arranged.

5. Time meeting closed: 20:10 hours