

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL
WHITSTABLE HARBOUR BOARD

**Minutes of a meeting held on Friday, 13th September, 2019
at 3.30 pm in St Johns Methodist Church, Argyle Road, Whitstable, CT5 1JS**

Present: Councillor Dixey (Chairman)
Councillor Baker
Councillor Caffery
Councillor Cornell
Councillor Watkins
Paul Moore

In attendance

Officers: Lisa Fillery - Director of Finance and Procurement
Owen Croft - Principal Property Asset Surveyor
John Davison - Principal Maritime Engineer (Harbour
Development Officer)
Mike Wier - Port Manager and Harbour Master
Glyn Hall-Edwards - Deputy Harbour Master
Vanessa - Democratic Services Officer
Montgomery

316 Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Pat Todd, Ian Thomas, Sue Budden and Peter Steen.

317 Substitute Members (Councillors)

There were no substitutes

318 Election of a Chairman for the meeting

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote unanimously agreed that Councillor Dixey be elected as Chairman for the meeting.

Record of the voting:

For: Baker, Caffery, Cornell, Moore and Watkins (5)

Against: None

Abstained : Dixey (1)

319 Declaration of interests by Board members and officers

Paul Moore made a voluntary announcement that he was a member of Whitstable Yacht Club.

320 **Public Participation**

There were no registered speakers.

321 **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2019**

The minutes of the meeting on 14 June 2019 were agreed as a true record.

322 **Harbour Day 2020**

The Harbour Master introduced the report and invited Gordon Vincent of Whitstable Maritime to explain the report and the results of the last Harbour Open Day.

He explained the request to the Board was to agree an annual grant and the potential for a second Harbour Day. The following points were made:

1. Feedback from the event has been very positive and the event was delivered within budget.
2. The grant from the Board is needed to help with the cashflow and specifically reserving first aid cover for the event, the PA system and promotion of the event.
3. A provisional date of 1 August date has been set for the open day in 2020.
4. Whitstable Maritime would like to explore the possibility of a second day of the event that would compliment the first day to include community events and potentially a commercial boat show.
5. The Boat show on the second would be self funding through sponsorship and fees to commercial boat builders and could has the potential to help fund the Harbour Day.

The Board then asked questions and points including the following were discussed:

6. The Board voiced their support for the event that offered positive promotion for the harbour and thanked the organisers and stallholders for making it a success.
7. It was confirmed that there is a waiver of fees for the Neptune as it is a popular visitor attraction and berths in the harbour particularly for Harbour Day. The only direct cost for the Harbour Board is the linesman staff.
8. Survey feedback from the Harbour Day would be helpful and should be implemented if possible for the next event.
9. The Whitstable Carnival could be held on the same day which offers further potential for shared costs and cross promotion.

The Board was asked to resolve that Whitstable Maritime should deliver future open days, an annual grant should be approved and that a second day of events be approved if commercially viable.

The options available to the Board were to support, reject or put forward alternative recommendations.

It was proposed, seconded and when put to vote RESOLVED

i) To endorse Whitstable Maritime to deliver the Open Day for the next three years, subject to an annual review.

ii) To approve a £2,000 annual grant for 2020

iii) For Whitstable Maritime and Harbour Master to explore the possibility of a second day of events

Reason for decision: The Harbour Days support the Strategic Plan. A grant would give security to the event. A second day would compliment the first and be of benefit to the local community, harbour and help with funding.

Record of the voting:

For: Baker, Caffery, Cornell, Dixey, Moore and Watkins (6)

Against: None

Abstained : None

323 **South Quay Shed update**

The Deputy Harbour Master and Principal Maritime Engineer gave a verbal update regarding the construction of the South Quay Shed (SQS). The following points were made and he gave clarification where required:

1. Contractors are on site and the next steps for completion are roof works, guttering, dormers and toilet drainage.
2. Currently all work is on schedule and within budget.
3. A meeting was scheduled to initiate the land swap to gain access to the back yard.
4. The working group was scheduled to meet in the first week of October, when internal and external marketing and management options will be explored.
5. Positive feedback had been received regarding the new signage on the SQS.

The Board NOTED the update.

324 **Port Manager and Harbour Master's Report**

The Harbour Master introduced his report which updated the Board on matters related to operational management of the Harbour including matter related legislation.

He explained in a response to a question from a Board member, that the Bonay near miss mentioned in the report would have been a minor incident and therefore only needed reporting to the Board. He clarified that there was no pilot on board but all precautionary steps were taken in line with the berthing procedure.

He reported positive feedback from the Beach and Reach wheelchair hire scheme and a request will be made for them to return next year.

The Harbour Master outlined steps being taken regarding health and safety issues regarding cars at the entrance of the West Quay. He explained signage had been ordered and plans for road marking and safety barriers were to be put in place to give clearer direction to drivers.

The Board NOTED the report.

325 **Harbour Action Plan**

The action plan was NOTED.

326 **Date of next meeting**

3pm, Friday 15 November 2019

327 **Any other urgent business to be dealt with in public**

There was no urgent business raised.

328 **Exclusion of the press and public**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act or the Freedom of Information Act or both

329 **Property Action Plan Updates**

The information contained in this annex was exempt from being published because its disclosure was likely to prejudice the commercial interest of both the Council and third parties. The council considers that at present the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. Both section 43 Freedom of Information Act 2000 and paragraph 3 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 apply.

The Principal Valuer gave his updates. The Board members asked question and where appropriate the Principal Valuer gave clarification.

It was noted by the Board that Owen Croft, the Principal Property Asset Surveyor was retiring in November the Board thanked him for his hard work and commitment to the Harbour over the years and wished him all the best for the future

330 **Any other business which falls under the exempt provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 or the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or both**

There were no items to be discussed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.30 pm