

**THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**13<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2022**

**CHAIRMAN:** C Freeman

**PRESENT:** C Bailey, T Dann, R Hawkins, S Hollington, J James, C Marfleet, N Parsons, R Pitt, P Pope, K Wickham, P Woodford

**APOLOGIES:** B Calver, P Cottis, R Fancy, Z Shean, C Slade

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Susan Harrison Harbour Master

5 MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021.

5.1 Mr Parsons referred to Minute 30 – Fees for Canoes, Kayaks, SUPs & Sailboards.

He reported that as stated in Minute 30 there was no discussion other than what was correctly reported in the minutes. In the Gold Minutes of the Authority meeting, it also stated there was no comment and the reason it stated no comment was because it wasn't discussed.

The Chairman acknowledged the clarification that it was not an oversight in the Minutes but the fact that the matter was not discussed. This has already been taken up with the Authority.

6 Any Other Business:

The Harbour Master said this had been introduced by the former Chairman to put AOB at this stage in the agenda, however as the new Chairman if this was something he wished to change in the future he may do so.

6.1 In answer to a query the Harbour Master reported that the Burnham Ferry was currently running from Burnham Yacht Harbour following the recent closure of the Burnham Jetty due to storm damage.

Mr James pointed out that it was MDC's responsibility and he had been in touch with the local Mayoress at Burnham who is bringing pressure to the Town Council.

The Harbour Master said that if in a month's time there was no movement from MDC regarding refurbishment it would be necessary to prevent access to the pontoon as it was potentially very dangerous. Currently there are no notices on the structure, although the flood gates have been closed.

Mr Wickham then went on to report on the outcome regarding his latest conversation with the Estates Manager for MDC and what their intentions were in trying to resolve the matter.

It was suggested that the Authority write to MDC and point out their responsibilities, the Harbour Master said she would pass this onto the Chairman of the Authority.

The Authority are on the case and the Harbour Master to update members once she is aware of MDC's intentions.

There were no further items under Any Other Business.

7 MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY ZOOM MEETING HELD ON THE 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

7.1 Mr Parsons referred to his earlier comments about the charges.

8 *Request from Phil Pope - Rubbish Collection Initiatives - Up River Areas*

Mr Pope declared an interest.

Mr Pope said he would like to discuss an initiative by the WFWSC Committee to encourage members to engage in the collection of rubbish from the banks within their area. The Club have asked Mr Pope to see whether the Authority would consider making this a program that the other Clubs would support though their own membership. He said there was a lot of complaints regarding plastic pollution in the river and would be good if a collection could be organised, even if it was once a year.

Whilst Mr Parsons agreed that there were no facilities in place in Woodham and the fact that the Coastal teams were opening the pathways and there were no resources in place for the collection of the rubbish suggested that this proposal should be taken up with the Rochford Community Team. Mr Wickham said he would be happy to raise this on behalf of the Authority but felt that the Community Team would be looking to someone like CAYF to organise the Clubs as they had all the contacts.

Mr Wickham then went on to refer to a national Company called River care who he had been involved with carrying out litter picking in the river Roach. He pointed out that under their banner they provided insurance cover, the supply of litter pickers and sacks. In many instances, they also negotiated with the local Council to get the rubbish taken away.

Mr James also expressed concern at the state of the foreshore and build-up of rubbish and broken up jetties that had washed up against the seawall in Burnham which could potentially be a hazard.

The Chairman concluded the discussion to say that the Authority did not have the manpower to get involved, however the Committee would like to ask the Authority to help by raising awareness via the CHA website and if they would be prepared to supply some refuse sacks.

9 *Trustees /Members Response to the Report and Recommendations on Jet Skis*

The Harbour Master reported that the Advisory Committee were asking the Trustees of the Authority to prohibit the use of jet skis on the river Crouch. These recommendations did go to an Authority meeting and the majority but not all the members agreed that it was the way they wanted to currently move not to prohibit the use of jet skis. It was thought that education/training was the way ahead, and restriction of access at the public launching spot in Hullbridge.

She went on to say that the Dft were in consultation in September last year whereby they were seeking people's opinions of where they should go on the topic of PWC's, part of the consultation was that they wanted to bring recreational vessels and PWC's under the same laws as those that operated as commercial ships. It is not yet known when the results will be published. She stressed that it must be borne in mind that there is a right to navigate from A to B.

Mr James expressed his disappointment that the Authority decided not to take any further action on the matter, and it was with regret that he was unable to attend the Authority meeting where it was discussed. This was reiterated by Mr Hollington who was also extremely disappointed at the Authority's decision and that the letters/recommendations from the Advisory Committee had not been listened to.

Mr Parsons also expressed his concerns and said that he had asked on more than one occasion for sight of a Risk Assessment that stated that PWC's were not suitable vessels to be on the river Crouch.

He then went on to report of a recent incident he had experienced east of the Fambridge moorings over the Easter period and said that one day there was going to be a serious accident.

The Harbour Master advised Mr Parsons to email the details, together with any evidence to the Authority c/o of the Chairman.

Mr Wickham then went on to report of the work that he had been undertaking in the background concerning the public slipway at Hullbridge and stressed the fact that the Authority were actively looking into the matter. The Harbour Master reiterated the fact that she had been speaking to the Chairman of the Authority yesterday and a considerable amount of time had been spent on the matter and they were seeking legal advice as to how to proceed regarding the slipway.

The Chairman concluded by saying that as far as the Committee were concerned their disappointment should be recorded that their views had not been taken into consideration and to ask the Authority to review the matter and report back to the Committee.

Mr Wickham pointed out that he wished to clarify that the response regarding the jet skis was from the RSPB and Essex Wildlife Trust jointly as it was incorrectly recorded that the response had only been from the RSPB. Noted.

10 *Presentation of a Discussion Document on the Reorganisation of the Advisory Committee*

Mr Wickham reported that for many years under the previous Chairman, he had been asked to look at the possibility of restructuring the Advisory Committee. The reasoning for that was that there were 27 members under the original Act that had now increased to 30 members. The idea was to possibly form a Steering Committee type organisation where there would still be 30 representative organisations but by setting up a Steering Committee it would make it a more manageable meeting group.

He stressed that the Document that had been circulated was for discussion only and not a mandate of what the Authority were going to do.

Mr Hollington who is also a CHA member had put forward some recommendations, however these were not included in the Document until everyone's views had been included.

Mr Wickham pointed out that he would continue as the Roach representative on the Advisory Committee to assist the Chairman and asked for members to take the Document away and come back in writing with members recommendations.

Once the process had been finalised and all views taken on board it would then be a matter of making the changes a Harbour Directive, so it was imperative to get it right first time as the process would be costly and time consuming.

To be included on the next Agenda to discuss the outcome of members views.

11 *Harbour Master's Update*

11.1 *Acknowledgements:*

The Harbour Master thanked the members for attending the Committee meetings via Zoom during the Covid pandemic. She said going forward that there might be occasions when it may be more practical to have both face-to-face meetings and zoom meetings.

The Harbour Master also expressed her thanks to Mr Parsons who had had a much greater input over the last year and the co-operation given to the office staff.

11.2 *Port of London Authority Survey*

At the end of last month, the PLA completed their "Pinch Point Surveys" of the river on behalf of the Authority, including the Raysand Channel. The results of the surveys are still awaited. Once received they will be promulgated and sent to the Hydrographic Department to ensure the Charts are updated accordingly.

11.3 *Annual "Beating of the Bounds"*

Members will be receiving an invite to the annual "Beating of the Bounds". It is proposed to have a small river trip followed by lunch at the RCYC. The D.P. Mike Robarts will be giving a small update on the PMSC prior to lunch.

Places on the boats will be limited, however if all the places are taken up members will still be welcome to attend the lunch.

12 *For Information - Works & Dredging Licences Issued:*

12.1 *Annual Dredging Licence Fambridge Yacht Haven to Dredge 6,000 cu.m/MMO Licence MLA/2016/00197 - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022*  
Dredging License issued 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

Noted.

12.2 *Works License Burnham Wharf Heritage Limited - Repairs to Jetty at Kings Wharf, Burnham-on-Crouch*

Works License issued 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

Noted

13 *Any Other Business:*

13.1 *Installation of Withies – River Roach*

Mr Wickham reported that he had been approached by Wakering Boatyard to place some withies through Potton. He has approached Rochford District Council to get permission to obtain the willow branches. As soon as a response is received, Mr Wickham will arrange to have them put in.

13.2 *Works at Burnham-on-Crouch*

Mr Parsons asked if the Authority were aware of proposals to install some pontoons at Rice & Cole. The Harbour Master confirmed that there had been no formal approach to the Authority.

Mr Parsons said he had also heard that Maldon District Council had some scheme to tidy up the area around Priors Boatyard. The Harbour Master said that the CHA was aware that Maldon District Council had aspirations to install a new jetty where the Llys Helig is currently berthed.

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Mr James declared an interest as he was acting for MDC in respect of their proposal for new moorings for houseboats on the area of foreshore they own. He said that planning permission had been in for a year but had been postponed due to Covid, however nothing could be determined on that front until the situation with the Llys Helig had been resolved.

13.3 *Ships to Baltic Wharf*

The Harbour Master reported that she had been asked about commercial activities into Baltic Wharf in view of the current Ukrainian situation. Baltic Wharf are conducting stringent checks on vessels coming to the Wharf and going through the correct processes as set out by the Government Guidelines.

13.4 *Next Meeting Date*

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.