

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON

4TH DECEMBER 2024

CHAIRMAN: C Freeman

PRESENT: C Bailey, T Dann, R Fancy, C Marfleet, N Parsons, I Radford, P Rawson, P Woodford

APOLOGIES: P Cottis, S Harrison, R Pitt, Z Shean

22 *Declaration of Business Interests*

Mr Parsons declared an interest in his capacity as Mooring Agent to the Crouch Harbour Authority.

Mr Dann declared an interest as a Relief Pilot for Baltic Wharf.

23 MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10TH JULY 2024

23.1 It was proposed by Mrs Bailey and seconded by P C Rawson to approve the Minutes as a correct record subject to amendment to Minute 17.

23.2 *2025 Schedule of Harbour Dues and Charges*

Mr Parsons referred to Minute 17 in respect to 2025 charges whereby he reported “*that the figures were a fair increase and above the current rate of inflation*”. He asked that the Minutes be amended to correctly read “*the figures were above the current rate of inflation*” The amendment was noted by the Secretary.

Mr Dann pointed out that to be fair the CPI for October was up to 2.3% and continuing to go up, so the figures were not too bad.

24 MINUTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 2ND MAY 2024

There were no matters to take back to the Authority arising from the minutes.

24.1 In response to a query raised by Mr Parsons the Chairman clarified that the Chairman of the Authority would only attend Advisory Committee meetings if invited by members.

24.2 Mrs Bailey reported that it was good to see that the Burnham pontoon was back in operation.

25 *Jet Skis*

Mr Parsons reported that there had been quite a few instances of jet skis coming from the Burnham area, taking no notice of the navigations signs at Fambridge and roaring through the moorings and then heading for Hullbridge. He then went on to report some of the other issues that he had experienced and pointed out that this was becoming a habit, and his concern was that Fambridge would become a centre for abuse by these craft and wanted to know what could be done.

P C Rawson said that he had not received any reports and stressed that unless the Police were aware of any problems there was nothing that they could do. However, if the Police were provided with the details, they would be able to make some enquiries and explained what information would be helpful to assist them.

The Chairman closed the discussion and said that he would continue to raise members concerns to the Trustees about jet skis operating on the river.

26 *Works & Dredging License Applications*

Noted.

27 *Works & Dredging Licenses Issued*

Noted.

28 *Harbour Master's Update*

There were no matters to report.

29 Any Other Business:

29.1 *Complaints at Baltic Wharf*

Mrs Bailey asked if there were any updates in respect to scrap metal material to Baltic wharf. She said there were still bright lights over at the Wharf. The Chairman said it was his understanding that any complaints were being dealt with by Rochford District Council and the lighting issues had been addressed and adjustments made.

29.2 *Marine Police Update*

P C Rawson reported that delivery of the new Police Launch had been delayed until the first week in February. It would be berthed at Burnham Yacht Harbour, and it was hoped that the number of patrols on the river would be increased from last year.

29.3 *Report from Clive Marfleet*

Mr Marfleet reported that it had been a successful year as there had been very few incidents on the river from kayakers.

He said the receipt of water quality reports had been useful for the paddlers, and he had made the Clubs and individuals aware that the Harbour Authority were doing all it could in this regard.

29.4 *Consultation on Reform of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013*

The Chairman reported on a consultation document from Defra on potential reform measures to improve the current regulations on bathing waters which had been brought to his attention by the Chairman of the Trustees.

Miss Radford said that she had seen the document, which was quite detailed and went on to briefly outline some of the salient points set out in the document, which she said was important to read in full.

The Chairman said he would ask the Secretary to email members the link and urged everyone to have a read of the document and if they wished to express their views to take part in the online survey.

29.5 Mr Parsons reported on the information that he had circulated via the CAYF network about the renewal of the prohibition of none commercial vessels in the Black Deep, the Knock John and Fisherman's Gap issued by the Port of London Authority. He said that he had not seen anything saying that mariners could not use these channels and said it posed the question that anyone travelling from the Crouch or Roach to the west of the Thames which route should they take.

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The Chairman responded that he was unaware of these details. Mr Parsons said he would follow up on this and find out more information.

29.6 *2025 Meeting Dates:*

Wednesday 9th April

Wednesday 9th July

Wednesday 3rd December (Zoom meeting)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.06 p.m.