

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING

HELD ON

8th DECEMBER 2021

CHAIRMAN: **K Wickham**

PRESENT: **C Bailey, T Dann, R Fancy, C Freeman, V Gouldsmith, J James, M Outten, N Parsons, P Pope, P Woodford**

APOLOGIES: **P Cottis, S Hollington, R Pitt, C Slade**

IN ATTENDANCE: **Susan Harrison Harbour Master**

26 MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY 2021.

26.1 It was proposed by Mr Freeman and seconded by Mr Pope that the Minutes of the Advisory Committee be signed as a true record. AGREED.

27 Any Other Business:

There were no matters arising.

28 MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON THE 14TH JULY 2021

29 *Exclusion of PWC's on the River Crouch*

The Chairman reported that Mr James had written a paper about the exclusion of PWC's on the River Crouch which included comments from members and various organisations. The D.P. has also sent out a report from the DoT and what they had been looking into concerning PWC's.

The Chairman reported that he received copies of the Community Marine Watch Social Media Extracts sent to him by the Marine Police setting out the number of hours they spent in various locations and what they had found and who they had stopped. The Chairman said he was happy to circulate if members wanted a copy.

He went on to say that he represented the Authority on the Rochford and Crouch Coastal Community Team, who were looking at water safety. They are considering what they can do about jet skis and anti-social behaviour on the River Crouch. Only two meetings had been held so far but it had been mooted that a way forward would be by way of education. They are looking to have a water safety campaign starting in Easter next year and they will be working with the Marine Police, the RLNI and the Coastguard.

The Chairman then went on to invite Mr James to comment on his report.

Mr James referred to the Guide, Managing Personal Water Craft (A Guide for local Harbour Authorities), which specifically covered how best to manage PWC's and Jet Skis. The document can be downloaded online and covered all the points that the CHA should be considering.

He recommended that everybody have a read and suggested that the Advisory Committee move forward to the main Authority with the recommendation based on the content of the Management Guide.

The D.P. has confirmed that as a Harbour Authority the CHA cannot ban any activities, however under its terms could prohibit the use of Jet Skis. Mr James said he would like to recommend that the Authority proceed with prohibiting Jet skis/PWC's on the River Crouch in its entirety.

Mr Pope said he would like to propose the prohibition of the use of Jet Skis/PWC's on the River Crouch and its tributaries.

Mr Parsons said he was fully supportive of Mr James paper, which was a good summary of the feeling on the river but there had been considerable correspondence earlier on in the year about stopping these craft from operating on the Crouch from the local Clubs other than just the replies to Mr James report.

Mr James said he agreed that the letters and information from CAYF should also be submitted as part of the proposal to the main Authority as it was very relevant and representative of the river users feelings, together with any other information from members/parties/Clubs.

Concern was expressed by some of the members that they had not received all the information. The Chairman accepted that some of the information may not have been circulated but the proposal was to put forward a case to the CHA members that the majority of the users on the river via the Clubs, CAYF and members of the Advisory Committee would like the Authority to look into prohibiting jet skis within CHA jurisdiction including all the backwaters, from Battlesbridge down to seaward end, up to Rochford and Wakering.

After further debate and discussion, it was put to the vote and proposed by Mr Pope and seconded by Mr Freeman to propose to prohibit the use of Jet Skis/PWC's on the River Crouch and its tributaries. Agreed.

Based on this proposal the Chairman said he would prepare a document in the next few days and formulate all the information. Any comments that have not been circulated please forward to the Office Manager. Comments from CAYF to be sent direct to the Chairman.

The Chairman to circulate his report and all the documentation to the Advisory Members before presenting to the CHA members at their next meeting.

30 *2022 Fees for Canoes, Kayaks, SUPs & Sailboards*

*The fee is £5 for one vessel; £10.00 for two to four vessels. Five and above £25.00.

Vessels owned and registered to established clubs and used solely for training purposes are exempt, but the craft will need to be identified with the Club's ID and Postcode.

Canoe	£5.00 per annum
Kayak	£5.00 per annum
Stand-Up Paddle Board/Paddle Board	£5.00 per annum
Sailboard	£5.00 per annum

Noted.

31 *Annual Dredging Licences*

Mr Parsons asked if the Harbour Authority carried out any retrospective work as to the effect on the river following the dredging operations.

The Harbour Master confirmed that the Fairway was checked on a regular basis and there were no noticeable changes due to these works, however it was not possible to check the entire river as there were not the facilities available.

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Members then went on to air their views on the siltation in the rivers Crouch and Roach. The Chairman pointed out that there were problems with siltation in rivers throughout the South East, however members had reassurance from the Harbour Master that there had been no noticeable changes within the Fairway.

- 31.1 *Annual Dredging Licence Application from Burnham Yacht Harbour to Plough Dredge 12,500 cu. m – Current Licence Expires 31st December 2021/MMO Licence L/2015/00360/2 – 1st June 2025*

Noted.

- 31.2 *Annual Dredging Licence Application from Essex Marina to Plough Dredge 22,000 cu.m – Current Licence Expires 1st January 2022/MMO Licence L/2016/00377/2 – 8th December 2026*

2022 Winter dredging project will consist of dredging C Arm, end of D Arm and beneath Ramp/Walkway.

Noted.

- 32 Any Other Business:

- 32.1 *2022 Meeting Dates:*

Wednesday 6th April

Wednesday 6th July

Wednesday 7th December

The Chairman said that the next meeting date in April was the AGM during which a Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be elected. Nominations could be taken at the meeting, although it was not clear at this stage whether it would be a Zoom meeting or a face to face meeting.

The Chairman asked if there were any members of the Committee who would like to be nominated or have nominations made on their behalf for these positions to inform the Office Manager.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.21 p.m.