

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING

HELD ON

13TH MAY 2020

- 14 *Chairman's Announcements*
- The Chairman paid tribute to the Staff for their hard work, dedication and professionalism during the Covid-19 emergency.
- 15 MEETING HELD ON 22ND JANUARY 2020 & SPECIAL CHA VIRTUAL MEETING BY EMAIL ON 24TH MARCH 2020
- The Minutes were unanimously agreed.
- 16 *To Agree to Suspend Advisory Committee Meetings Until the Corona Virus Lockdown Emergency is Over. Urgent Communication and Voting to Proceed by Email.*
- Mr Wickham suggested that this should be a requirement from the Chair of the Advisory Committee.
- All in agreement.
- 17 *To remove 5 Navigational Marks agreed with the Harbour Master in 2020*
- Mr Wickham commented on costs to remove against cost to maintain for another year? Hitched to 18.1 on the agenda.
- All in agreement.
- CHA Policy: Agreed to remove the five Navigational Marks.
- 18 *Introduction of additional Charge for Pleasure Boat Licenses*
- To consider introducing a "for hire/reward" Tariff which would be additional to Harbour Dues.
- Mr Adams responded by saying yes to Ferry's / water taxis but Sailing schools already struggle & sailing barges are good for tourism – he would consider options to encourage them to operate from the Crouch / Roach rather than penalize them?
- 9 in Agreement, 1 Abstention, 1 Disagreed.
- CHA Policy: Agreed to introduce Additional Charge for Pleasure Boat Licenses.
- 19 *Port Marine Safety Code – For Information*
- Although the Chair had reported on his guidance from the DoT, Mr Wickham asked for members to have sight of specific communications with the DoT.

20 *Harbour Master's Report*

For the CHA Contractor to inspect and renew only the essential navigation marks/mooring chains for Cardinal Navigation Marks in 2020.

Mr Lingard queried whether it would make it more work/cost in the future, if not he agreed.

11 in Agreement.

CHA Policy: Agreed only essential navigation to be carried out in 2020.

21 *To Agree a CHA Steering Group to Act in the Best Interests of Trustees*

The majority of members made no comment.

Mr Wickham referred to his comments in the 5-year Strategy Plan with reference to the additional Sub Committee. CHA is trying to cut down various Committees and already have a Management Sub Committee. CHA needs to invite Simon Hollington as Vice Chair to attend. If not, he said he believed the CHA were not really covering all the rivers and were returning to the days when it was felt the Roach was not taken into consideration in the workings of the CHA.

3 in Agreement.

22 Any Other Business:

22.1 *Essex Marina Enquiry – Jet Ski Enquiry*

Members were provided with information concerning a proposal from Essex Marina seeking to use the River for the purpose of testing jet skis following on from the Marina having taken on a dealership with Kawaski for the sale of jet skis.

One member objected to them trialing the skis upriver as it would drive further erosion concerns with landowners, be a potential danger to CSC members, paddle boarders / small craft users and may lead to further requests for more stringent speed restrictions between Fambridge & Burnham which may then lead to a detrimental effect on businesses at Bridgemarsh, Fambridge and Hullbridge.

Sea trials will inevitably lead to potentially inexperienced customer trials.

Essex Marina have taken on the dealership without considering the bigger picture including the published CHA byelaws.

PWC's are a problem on the Crouch and despite the small amount of money this might raise one member felt it inappropriate to sanction them, and felt the CHA took the risk of alienating other river users if allowed.

These craft would not bring benefit to the Crouch or the Roach.

Another member said that if these were to be sanctioned the CHA would not have a case against opening up the whole of the river to PWC's and new costly Byelaws would have to be put in place. The majority of the river users/land and property owners would not be happy if this was sanctioned and there would possibly be more accidents involving collisions and poor seamanship

One member felt that if the Marina adhered to the rules, the law, and the speed limits then they should be allowed to peacefully enjoy the river as other boater are.

22.2 *Works Licence Application from Mark Fry of Kingsman's Farm Road, Hullbridge*

Permission is sought from the owner of the Property at "Riverrun" to lay a swinging mooring buoy on his property at "Riverrun".

There were no objections to the application subject to clarification that the foreshore/riverbed on which the proposed mooring is to be laid is in the ownership of the applicant. Members were subsequently provided with Land Registry evidence that the land is within the ownership of Mr Fry.

There was no further business.