

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING

HELD ON

11TH JANUARY 2023

CHAIRMAN: K Wickham

PRESENT: E Buckley, R Coyle, S Hollington, J James, R Lingard

APOLOGIES: T Dann, S Olley, D Sperring

IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Harrison Harbour Master, M Robarts, DP,

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

PART I (GOLD)

(Matters of a non-confidential nature taken with the public and press present).

1 *Chairman's Announcements*

There were no announcements.

2 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 7th SEPTEMBER 2022**

Agreed Part 1 be approved as a correct record. All in favour.

2.1 *Water Quality*

Discussion: The Chairman reported on the research that had been undertaken in trying to deal with the coastal water problems and discussions that had taken place with the Councils over the water issues and the difficulties that had been encountered.

Mr Buckley went on to say that he had received a telephone call recently from a gentleman who was involved in "Surfers against Sewage" who had national funding and were looking to various rivers like the river Crouch to join the movement to address the water quality issues with the intention of getting local people trained so that testing could be carried out on a regular basis.

The data would then be gathered together on a national database to present to the government to make them take action. Mr Buckley said he felt this was the quickest route to get things done and would follow up on this.

Mr James expressed his concerns, pointing out that he had received many comments from local authorities asking what was being done. He said it was becoming a serious issue with in the area and felt there would be increasing pressure concerning discharge of sewerage. As a statutory Authority it should be taking the lead.

Decision: To keep progressing.

Action Items: Mr Buckley to chase the contact for the “Surfers Sewage”

To be Actioned by: Mr Buckley

All in Favour: Agreed

2.2 *Hullbridge Slipway*

Information: The Chairman reported that discussions had taken place regarding the possibility of putting a Public Protection Order across the whole of the river, but the proposals were not supported.

Meetings then took place in looking at a byeway across the river, however after consultation with the Highways Byways Section Department they have said they would like to keep it open. The Chairman said he would be talking further with Paul Rawson, however there had been a positive outcome in that the slipway was the responsibility of the Highways Department and nothing to do with the Authority.

3 **MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER 2022**

4 *Restructure of Advisory Committee*

Discussion: The Chairman said that he had been asked some years ago, through the previous Chairman to investigate the restructuring of the Advisory Committee. A document was drawn up and circulated for comment to which there were only five responses, and these were then incorporated into the proposals.

He went on to say that members were being asked to accept the document. Legal advice had been sought from Peter McArthur and whilst there had been a few members who had expressed concern, he stressed that the intention was not to change anything and take any membership away but to streamline the Committee with a Steering Committee of the new Advisory Committee.

He pointed out that the Advisory Committee had asked at the last meeting if it could be further discussed, however ample opportunity had been given to discuss the proposals, and there had been no comments forthcoming.

Mr Hollington said he was not entirely happy with the proposals and had asked previously for more than one adjacent owner to sit on the Committee. He said that whilst the overall principle was good, he felt that the Committee would benefit from having two adjacent owner representatives north and south of the river.

The Chairman said that he had taken on board his comments but reiterated that if the members represented their constituent body correctly each sector would get a fair hearing.

Decision: To accept the proposals within the document with a caveat that it would be trialed for 24 months.

Action Items:

To be Actioned by:

All in Favour: Agreed

5 *CHA Poll Results on 8k Speed Limit Buoys – Cliff Reach, River Crouch*

Discussion: The Harbour Master said that a survey had been circulated to all stakeholders asking whether people thought that the 8k speed limit buoy should be moved from its current position, just upriver of the Creeksea Sailing Club to Black Point opposite the entrance to Bridgemarsh Marina.

Members then went on to discuss the outcome of the survey, which given the results indicated minimal feedback had been received.

Decision: Agreed not to move the buoy but to leave it in its current position.

Action Items: To set a survey response rate for any future surveys.

To be Actioned by:

All in Favour: Agreed

6 *Annual Dredging License Application from Fambridge Yacht Haven to Dredge 6,000 cu.m – Current License Expires 30th January 2023. MMO License MLA/2016/00197 – 29th January 2027*

Decision: To issue an annual Dredging License to Fambridge Yacht Haven.

Action Items:

To be Actioned by:

All in Favour: Agreed

7 *To Review Appointment of the “Designated Person”*

Discussion: The D.P. left the meeting whilst Members reviewed the DPs position. The Harbour Master said she was grateful for the D. P’s support in his approach in such a sensitive and practical manner.

Decision: It was proposed by Mr James and seconded by Mr Lingard to retain the services of the D.P.

Action Items:

To be Actioned by:

All in Favour: Agreed

8 *CHA Statement to Stakeholders*

Discussion: The Chairman reported that the statement, which had been circulated to members, had been drafted by Mr Buckley with the intention of it being sent out with the annual Harbour Dues reminders.

Decision: Following a few minor revisions to the draft, it was felt that it was necessary following the criticism of last year to circulate the statement to all stakeholders giving them an understanding what is going on and to advise of the small percentage increase in Harbour Dues.

Action Items: Chairman to sign the statement.

To be Actioned by: Mr Wickham

All in Favour: Agreed

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.35p.m.