

# THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY ZOOM MEETING

HELD ON

13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021

**CHAIRMAN:** E Buckley

**PRESENT:** D Adams, T Dann, S Hollington, J James, R Lingard, M Mason, K Wickham, Cllr A Williams

**APOLOGIES:** R Coyle

**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).

The Chairman welcomed Cllr. Williams representing Rochford District Council who had replaced Cllr Wootton.

1 *Chairman's Announcements*

There were no announcements.

2 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2021.**

It was proposed by Mr Wickham and seconded by Mr James that Part 1 be approved as a correct record. All in favour. Agreed.

3 *Annual Dredging Licence Application from Fambridge Yacht Haven to Dredge 5,000 cu.m – Current Licence Expires 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020/MMO Licence MLA/2016/00197 - 29<sup>th</sup> January 2027.*

**Decision:** Proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Lingard to issue an annual Dredging Licence to FYH.

**Action Items:** To email to the Advisory Committee for their comment.

**To be Actioned By:** Elaine Hawksworth

**All in Favour:** 8/9 in favour. Agreed

4 *Code of Conduct for Jet Skis*

**Discussion:** To consider issuing a directive from the CHA with regard to a Code of Conduct for all jet skiers to sign before being issued with a PWC Licence.

There is no further national movement towards increasing powers specific to PWC's & Jet Skis but the D.P. will continue to follow this up. Guidance is required on whether Jet/PWC's are classed as a ship or vessel, which will have a bearing on the CHA Byelaws.

The Authority may in the future have to consider seeking professional advice from a specialist solicitor regarding its powers. In the meantime the Authority must try and get the message across through education.

**Decision:** Code of Conduct to be mandatory and part of the caveat in being eligible for a CHA PWC Licence.

**Action Items:** To publish and populate the Code of Conduct. Advisory Committee Members to be consulted.

**To be Actioned By:** Susan Harrison/Elaine Hawksworth

**All in Favour:** 9/9 in favour. Agreed.

5 *To Police the Launching at Hullbridge*

**Discussion:** It has been identified that the bulk of the problems reported occur in the upper reaches from North Farnbridge moorings upwards. Watchful is having to be deployed in that area every weekend. Therefore, some consideration needs to be given whether members are prepared to designate the patrol boat every weekend or if an alternative solution can be reached.

Members were asked to consider the idea of purchasing a small boat or flat-bottomed RIB or a small trailerable dinghy that could be launched from upriver each weekend to police the increased number of swimmers, sailboards, surfboards etc. and the eclectic mix of inflatable types of craft thus allowing Watchful to be available in other areas of the river when required.

**Decision:** To discuss at next meeting in February.

**Action Items:** Members to give this some consideration and provide ideas to address the problem.

**To be Actioned By:**

6 **MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2ND DECEMBER 2020**

6.1 *Wash on a High Tide*

**Discussion:** Issues raised by Mr Woodford concerning wash on a high tide. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee has discussed with the Harbour Master various ways that this could be addressed.

To consider issuing a blanket Notice to Mariners around the time of an exceptionally high tide and north westerlies. To also consider asking the Coastguard to also issue a NtM as well, although this may prove more difficult in getting the Coastguard involved.

Mr Wickham said he would like to make this as a recommendation to the Chairman of the Authority.

**Action:** Chairman to discuss with the Harbour Master and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee

6.2 *No Motorised Craft in Clement Green Creek*

**Discussion:** Mr Shearring is seeking permission from the owners of Clements Green Creek to have some signs deployed stating that non-motorised vessels are not permitted in Clements Green Creek.

The Harbour Master said she would support the idea to designate Clements Green Creek as a non-powered craft area, with the benefit of a quiet area for the use of the paddle/canoe craft and would be prepared to deploy two buoys stating no motorised vessels past this point.

Mr Hollington as part owner of one side of the bank said he would be fully supportive in endorsing this proposal.

**Action:** The Chairman to discuss with the Harbour Master and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee.

7 *Advisory Committee*

**Discussion:**

To consider holding two meetings per year. Chairman of the Advisory Committee expressed concern at holding only two Advisory Committee meetings a year as this would not be viewed favourably with the Advisory members.

**Decision:** To continue to hold three meetings per year.

**Action Items:** Agreed to try and get the Advisory Committee AGM back in line to April.

**To be actioned By:** Mr Wickham

**All in favour:** Agreed

**Discussion:** To consider setting up a Terms of Reference for the Advisory Committee as per the D.P's recommendations.

**Decision:** To seek advice from the Department of Transport

**Action Items:** To contact Tom Oscroft at the Dft

**To be Actioned By:** Mr Buckley

**All in favour:** Agreed

8 Any Other Business:

8.1 The D.P. gave an update concerning the testing of the vaccines within the Ports Industry.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.50p.m.