

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY ZOOM MEETING

HELD ON

17TH FEBRUARY 2021

CHAIRMAN: E Buckley

PRESENT: R Coyle, S Hollington, J James, R Lingard, M Mason, K Wickham

APOLOGIES: D Adams, T Dann, Cllr A Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Harrison Harbour Master

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

PART I (GOLD)

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

19 *Chairman's Announcements*

19.1 **Information:**

During the last month, several Zoom meetings have taken place

A productive and informative meeting was held with Clive Marfleet from the British Canoe Association, (Senior Coach and member of the access kayaking in Essex). The information supplied by Mr Marfleet has already been populated on CHA Website.

A meeting was also held with the Essex Marine Police, who explained their hopes to use the Public Space Protection Order to assist with PWC's, powerboats and problems on the Rivers Blackwater and Colne.

CHA has asked whether these powers could be extended to Burnham-on-Crouch. Currently Essex Police feel that there is insufficient proof that there is a nuisance from PWC's in Burnham, this is something for CHA to pursue.

The Essex Marine Police are also setting up a Marine Police Awareness Course.

The issues with Shane Francis were also discussed but they will require more positive evidence before they can act.

Meeting held with Senior Scientist, Mike Gubbins from CEFAS.

20 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 13TH JANUARY 2021.**

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

21 *Code of Conduct for Jet Skis*

Discussion: The Jet Ski Code of Conduct has been circulated to the Advisory Committee for their views and thoughts. None of the comments were significant enough to be a concern.

Decision: To proceed with Jet Ski Code of Conduct as agreed at last CHA meeting.

Action Items: To promulgate for information

To be Actioned By: Elaine Hawksworth

All in Favour: 7/7 in favour. Agreed.

22 *To Police the Launching at Hullbridge*

Discussion: Discussed at last meeting and left it open for members to consider what steps to take, either to purchase a small vessel and have it available on a trailer or the alternative would be to have Watchful up there all the time.

The Harbour Master is in the process of trying to get some signage up at Hullbridge. Mr Wickham has been going through the procedures of trying to get the necessary permissions to get the signs put up and is currently liaising with Rochford District Council and the Parish Council. A meeting with the Roach Coastal Community Team has been set up in two weeks times to discuss options.

Decision: Firstly, to pursue getting the approval to get the signs put up. Once permission is obtained, the issue of how to monitor and police the launching at Hullbridge can then be discussed. All agreed.

Action Items: To obtain necessary permissions for Signage

To be Actioned By: Mr Wickham

All in Favour: 7/7 in favour. Agreed.

23 *To Designate Clements Green Creek as a Non-Powered Craft Area*

Mr Hollington declared a personal interest as being a landowner alongside Clements Green Creek.

Discussion: The Chairman has spoken to Charlie Williams, Team Leader for Natural England who has indicated that they would support the proposal as they have for some time been looking to ban all boats in that area. DEFRA are also going to support this action. Natural England are currently preparing a response to the Chairman's enquiry and will be providing information who to contact at DEFRA.

Thought would need to be given as to where the ski boats salaam course would be relocated to and the changes would necessitate the issue of a Harbour Direction until the Byelaws were updated.

If members decided to designate Clements Green Creek as a non-powered boat area the next step would be for CHA to start a consultation process with all its Stakeholders.

Decision: It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Mr Wickham to move the process forward to designate Clements Green Creek a non-powered boat area.

Action Items: To put out to stakeholder consultation as the next step of the process.

To be Actioned By: Mr Buckley

All in Favour: 7/7 in favour. Agreed.

24 *Clarification of Length of Licensed Ski Boats*

Discussion: Following a recent enquiry from the Ski Club who had been contacted by a family who wished to join the Ski Club and had a ski boat over length purely by its bathing platform and were asking if CHA would be happy for them to be licensed. Whilst there have been exemptions given to vessels over length in the past, it has never been clearly defined what is overall length, this is something that needs to be clarified.

Decision: Overall length, not greater than 7 metres. Measurement to be taken from the stem to stern and not to include any bathing platform fittings.

Action Items: To amend website and necessary documentation/promulgate information.

To be Actioned By: Elaine Hawksworth

All in Favour: 7/7 in favour. Agreed.

25 Any Other Business:

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.15 p.m.