

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY ZOOM MEETING

HELD ON

21ST APRIL 2021

CHAIRMAN: E Buckley

PRESENT: D Adams, R Coyle, T Dann, S Hollington, J James,
R Lingard, S Olley, K Wickham

APOLOGIES: M Mason, 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).

53 *Chairman's Announcements*

There were no announcements.

54 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 24TH MARCH 2021**

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

55 *CHA Ramp Master*

Discussion: CHA Ramp Master is still ongoing situation. Will be in a much better position to form an opinion after the May Bank Holiday. If CHA wants to pursue a Ramp Master will need to engage with both Hullbridge Parish Council and Rochford District Council because they should share some of the burden. It is not worth pursuing through the Coastal Community Team as they have not got any money.

The RLNI will be sending mobile phone bags for distribution whilst volunteers are out on the river.

Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact the Harbour Master to get their name on the Roster. It is important to establish what is going on up there so that the CHA can make plans going forward.

Decision: To start with Rochford District Council and set up a meeting with Mr Wickham, Mr Buckley and the Harbour Master.

Action Items:

- Mr Wickham to arrange a meeting with the Head of Rochford District Council.
- Harbour Master to check if the Marine Police will be able to make a presence over the Bank Holiday.
- Mr Buckley to check to see if there will be representation from the RLNI and the Canoe Association.

To be Actioned By: Mr Wickham/Susan Harrison/Mr Buckley

All in Favour:

56 *Focus Advertising*

Information: An Advert will be going into the Focus Magazine next week to be circulated to all the houses in Burnham, South Woodham Ferrers and surrounding areas.
Cost £270.00

57 *Coastal Paths*

Discussion: The Chairman has asked Millie Hollington to assist and she has been looking into the proposals. Natural England are trying to strike a balance between the interest of the public having rights of access over coastal areas which must be fair for the owners of the land over which the public are wandering. Looking at the Report it would appear from the proposals that it would not be too much of a problem to the CHA. The Report states that Natural England have been out to consultation, so it is a matter of waiting to see what transpires.

The Coastal Path on the north shore between Hullbridge and Burnham it is suggested that it should be restricted to the top of the bank which works in CHA favour. There will be a lot more to come out of the review. At the moment, it does not appear to affect the CHA because of the public exclusions.

Mr Wickham reported that he had a few exchanges with Paul Woodford and Charlotte Bailey as the farmers have expressed concern at the Coastal Footpath proposals.

Mr Hollington said he had extensive involvement with this and confirmed it was not particularly a worry to the CHA but anything of concern he would pass onto the Chairman and members.

Mr Wickham asked to be copied in on any feedback, as a lot of concern had been raised at the Advisory Committee and the lack of information that had been provided by Natural England. The Natural England representative on the Advisory Committee has promised to take these queries back to Natural England.

The Chairman said that his understanding was that Natural England were not interacting with the CHA because there was no need, in which case the CHA should not get involved and it was up to the individual landowners to make their own representation if they had not done so already.

Decision: CHA is happy with the current position. To wait and see what transpires from the Report and if anything came up to deal with it at the time, in the meantime to leave it with Natural England.

Action Items:

To be Actioned By:

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

58 *CHA Public Perception and Value for Money*

Discussion: This has come up quite a few times recently. People feel the CHA take their money and do nothing for them. The Chairman said he felt it was time for a change and asked members opinion whether they felt there was enough information about the Authority and what it did.

There was an agreement that possibly some PR might be beneficial by way of a coherent and constructive statement on the CHA Website about what the CHA did and why it benefits the river users and the river.

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The general response from those who had spoken was that there was a minority who moan about the CHA but what was not forthcoming or there was no comment from the members was what the Authority did.

Decision: Members to go away and think about what the CHA do for me and work on that conception.

Action Items:

- Mr Buckley to investigate getting some P.R. set up professionally.
- To discuss at the next CHA meeting in July.

To be Actioned By: Mr Buckley

All in Favour:

59 Any Other Business:

There were no matters arising.

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