

## Watchet Boat Owners Association

Meeting Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet

### Minutes

**Present:** 21 members were present

**Apologies:** Bob Hitchings, Bruce Scott, Ray Ventura, Richard Holt, Iain Lambert

#### 1. Minutes of the last meeting

#### 2. Matters arising

- Martin Stevens met with Janet Tapp at the 'Cotton Street' haberdashery shop and she is happy to produce stitched boat names on peoples' personal fleeces. Members will need to contact her directly for this service if they wish.
- Martin emailed all members to inform them about Steve Yeandle's proposal to withdraw fees from the Marina, as discussed at the last meeting.
- Members were reminded to contact Steve Yeandle if anyone can donate a plastic dingy to plant out with flowers, to replace the damaged one on the Esplanade. A member reported that the Onion Collective might have one in the yard.
- The date of the next WBOA Quiz night was changed to Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018, at the Esplanade Club. Posters providing further details were given out by Cathy Yuill and all were encouraged to attend. Arrival time is 7 p.m., with the start of the quiz at 7.30 p.m. Sandwiches and snacks are included, and prizes.

#### 3. Officer's Reports

- i. **Chair** – has given apologies
- ii. **Commodore** – has given apologies
- iii. **Secretary** – has given apologies
- iv. **Treasurer/Membership Secretary** (Martin Stevens)  
The WBOA Membership Subs are now due. All were encouraged to pay as soon as possible.
- v. **Other Officers**  
Vice Chair: Chris Danby – Nothing to report

#### 4. Watchet Marina Feedback (letter from Iain Lambert)

- i. Cardiff Water Injection Dredger (WID) unit was returned for repairs following engine seizure after 20 hours of running. She is due back this week when she'll continue with the arranged dredging programme of, initially, the outer harbour/B-C basin and hammerheads. Dr Rob Nunney has confirmed that she made a positive impact during the short time she was dredging.
- ii. An engineer/operator has potentially been sourced for the Marina dredger, which will follow on from the WID unit to tackle the hard under-layers of the silt.
- iii. Iain is exploring the option of building the Marina's own 9.5m WID unit, which would mean a one man, non intrusive operation, on each ebbing tide. If this is possible, it may prove a cost effective way of keeping on top of the silt during the summer months, augmented with a cutter-suck programme during the winter.

- iv. East Quay – negotiations are ongoing between Tim Taylor, WSDC and the Onion Collective, primarily over the parking issue. Once these have been resolved, the more practical issues such as those relating to the facilities and the harbour-side integrity can be addressed.
- v. Iain wanted to pass on his thanks for the ongoing general support of the WBOA members and berth holders.

The following discussion included:

- That while there has been a reported positive impact from the WID dredger unit, there is some concern about possible compaction in the outer harbour, requiring a capital dredge at some point in the future.
- About how the Cardiff WID dredger differs from the Van Ord dredger: It was reported that there are similarities in the specification of both dredgers, but with a difference in size (i.e. the WID can manoeuvre into small spaces and has a very low carbon footprint). Concern was expressed about maintenance of the Cardiff WID, yet it has enabled Dr Nunney to evaluate the impact of the WID and he has confirmed that the high spring tides and storms bring in the sediment; that is, not all tides will bring in significant sediment.
- About the East Quay proposed development, with concern being expressed about the planning application being verified by Watchet Town Council, without comment by them. This, however, is apparently the beginning of due process.
- Martin read out the comments submitted to WSC Planning Office by the WBOA, focusing on concerns related to parking requirements of the marina for berth holders, marina facilities, relocation of the historical mooring bollards, and the impact of the proposed realignment of the wharf road and vehicle access. He reported that Chris Hall had immediately responded, advising that this should be raised that the Harbour Advisory Committee. Mike and Cathy Yuill also commented on the application.
- Martin advised that it was still possible for members to comment on the application.
- The Environment Agency have submitted an objection to the planning application, stating that a flood risk assessment to the site is required, as a “result of breach of the wall, overtopping and climate change for a 1 in 200 year event”, and “a remediation strategy”.

##### **5. Watchet Fund Raising for the Minehead RNLI (Hilary Hawkins)**

At the start of the meeting, Hilary presented her plan for the May Day (first) bank holiday weekend to raise money for the Minehead RNLI. She would like to offer an ‘open boat’ event in the marina for those who would like to take part, and needs volunteers to hold charity buckets to help raise money. She also has a lot of bunting and needs help to put it up.

**Action: Cathy Yuill and Martin Stevens to liaise with Hilary about the support she requires.**

##### **6. Ideas for Social Events (Cathy Yuill)**

- (It was noted that there is a Cardiff SWOG event in Watchet on first Bank Holiday weekend.)
- Boat jumble, in conjunction with the Watchet market, on the Esplanade
- Fancy dress pub crawl, starting and ending at the Esplanade Club
- Fish and chip supper
- Safari boat supper/nibbles by invitation
- BBQ in the boatyard
- Skittle night
- Quiz nights

**Action: Cathy to draft an annual WBOA events programme, in accordance with other events in Watchet.**

Chris Webb and John Abbot-Garner are reinvigorating/relaunching the rowing section of the club. They plan to make announcement about it when ready. They are considering a ‘Launching Event’ on May 7<sup>th</sup> but need to incorporate the RYA rules for taster sessions. Additionally, the outer harbour requires dredging before the boats can be launched safely.

## **7. WBOA Website**

Cathy and Mike Yuill met with Bob Hitchings about developing the WBOA website in its own space on the server, as it currently sits on part of a server owned by Bob. All agreed that this should be progressed.

Roy Chave offered the WBOA use of the Esplanade Club website, if wanted.

Roger Lancaster's son may also be able to help with his company: West Wire.

**Action: Cathy and Mike to progress this, with the help of Bob.**

## **8. Any Other Business**

Sam Westmacott raised concern about difficulties in accessing the minutes of the Watchet Harbour Board meetings, and concerns that the statutory obligations of the Council in relation to Watchet Harbour are not being met. She is also concerned that the views of the WBOA are not being heard. There was some discussion about this, with Committee members reporting positive progress with the actions of WSC; for example, the funding of the recent WID dredging programme in the harbour.

## **9. Time meeting closed: 20:30**