

Watchet Boat Owners Association
Meeting Monday 8th October 2018
The Esplanade Club, The Esplanade, Watchet

Minutes

Present: 16 members were present

Apologies: Paul Barrel, Rick Holt, Sally Holt

Chris Danby chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Correction: Page 1, point 3. (Officer's Reports) iv (Treasurer/Membership Secretary), second paragraph: It is noted that the MMO is not a new organization, as was stated in the meeting. Therefore, to remove: "(MMO)...which is a new organization". Otherwise, the minutes were accepted as correct.

2. Matters arising

Nothing arising that isn't covered under the agenda of the meeting.

3. Officer's Reports

i. **Commodore (Bruce Scott)** – nothing to report

ii. **Vice Chair (Chris Danby)** – nothing to report

iii. **Secretary (Ray Ventura)**

In relation to monies owed to the club, Ray and Martin Stevens have an appointment with a solicitor on Thursday this week, to understand the legal position regarding people who owe monies and continue to keep boats in the yard.

iv. **Treasurer/Membership Secretary (Martin Stevens)**

Membership has closed now, but there are currently 50 members, due mostly to the impact of rowing enthusiasm.

v. **Yard Officer (Brian Rich)** – nothing to report

vi. **Health & Safety Officer (Rick Holt)** – has given apologies

vii. **Rowing Secretary (Chris Webb)**

Enthusiasm is starting to reduce as winter approaches. Two courses were run over the summer. Only three people went out rowing yesterday, but this was disappointing, as the weather was very good and the sea flat. There is, however, a hard core of keen people although there doesn't seem to be much interest as yet in going up to Burnham on Sea to row with the Club there. Chris is going to try to arrange a mid week row for seniors/retired people. He is also contemplating an organised 'night row', as the boat has the requisite navigation lights.

If anyone would like to go rowing, contact Chris Webb. **(Action: all)**

Also, if anyone has any trailer rollers, which are needed to reduce stress on the hull. Brian reported that there are some in the yard.

4. Watchet Harbour Marina Feedback (Ray Ventura/Martin Stevens)

No report from Iain this week, but we are all aware that the WID dredger is being developed and is likely to need trials before use. The WID is currently at the fabricators and Iain is going

to Burry Port with the one of the fabricator's employees this week to look at a WID there, as he intends to develop something similar. Iain is 100% focused in trying to get this completed.

A further £150k is required to effect a full depth navigational dredge (by digging out the mud) and to get a license for dumping the mud. Ray has met with the Onion Collective for their support, in view of their experience in raising money, and has started to write a business plan to support any application for funding. His view, though, is that it is going to be really difficult to raise money via funding grants, and therefore it might be better to explore private funding routes (e.g. Watchet Town Council might consider a contribution, in view of the positive impact to the town; the Marina might want to contribute further, despite having already invested in past dredging and the WID, in order to increase their revenue).

Ray read out aspects of his draft business plan. He has written to the Council and the Marina to request their input to the business case, and is going to request an informal meeting to seek an update. It is felt that the merger between Councils is making it difficult for individual council members to be very involved currently. We need to give the Marina time to get the WID up and running (to demonstrate that it will be able to provide an efficient dredging maintenance programme) before suggesting to the Council that a full depth navigational dredge is necessary.

Possible funding sources were discussed, and who has responsibility for the dredging of the marina and outer harbour. It was acknowledged that the Council is struggling to identify funding sources and have priorities far beyond Watchet harbour.

The work that Ray and Martin has done over the years to support the progress of this was formally recognized; and that Tim Taylor has invested in the WID.

5. Social Events – Skittles Night (Cathy Yuill)

While the Skittles event has been arranged for next Sunday at 4 p.m., only 10 people have confirmed attendance. For this reason, and as the buffet was going to cost £75, it was agreed that the event be cancelled. Instead, it was suggested that we meet at the Esplanade Club for a drink (since the meeting, the Royal British Legion have said that we can still go there for drinks and to try out the skittles, if we would like – we won't have the buffet, but we will still have an informal event there on Sunday 14th October at 4 p.m.).

Cathy is to produce a social itinerary for next year, and it was suggested that we have an event every two months. This could include sailing races, tender races, 'safari' dinner on board a number of people's boats, a pub-crawl, to invite speakers to meetings etc.

Cathy to look at the Burnham Sailing Club itinerary for ideas also. **(Action: Cathy)**

6. WBOA Website (Mike Yuill)

Bob Hitchings, who previously hosted the WBOA website has left Watchet and is to close the website down. A new website will be set up and we will keep useful information from the past website, such as the passage plans that Bob published. **(Action: Mike and Cathy Yuill)**

Please can people consider ideas for the future new WBOA website **(Action: all)**. One new member requested a list of members, as it is difficult to know how to contact people in the WBOA if you are new to the club. However, concern was expressed about data protection in relation to this. Instead, it was suggested that we could set up a fishing, rowing, sailing, and motorboat sections to the website, with appropriate contact email addresses. We will also keep the WBOA Facebook page running.

7. Any Other Business

Congratulations to Roger for completing his boat, which has just emerged from the tent!

Time meeting closed: 2010 hours