

Victoria Dock Berth Holders Association

Minutes of the General Meeting held on Saturday 9 June 2018 at Royal Welsh Yacht Club, Porth yr Aur, Caernarfon, LL55 1SN

Present: Pamela Hughes (Chair), John O'Sullivan (Vice-Chair), John Whittaker (Membership Secretary), Colin Turner (Committee member), Mark Walker (Secretary), John Grisdale (*Ffantasia*), Tom Brigman (*Trilogy*), Roger Moores (*Basanti*), Steve Blakeley (*Joules*), John Hay (*Andiamo*), Phil & Fiona Cooke (*Mwingo*), Dennis Banks (*Intrepid*), D Ferguson (*Arwen*), Eddie Williams (*Morwmoni*), Sandra Flannery/G J Tatlock (*Premier Cru*), Geoff & Betty Lloyd (*Quadriga*), Michael Knowles (*Alice*), Carl Elton (*Turumti*), Ralph Brierley (*Ynys Hwyl*), Dave Green (*Keoki*), John Peglar (*Alysia*), Trevor Shirley (*Hindsight*) and Ian Craft (*Romain*) with Llyr Jones, Gwynedd CC in attendance for item 2.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from several members, including Keith Elford, Daniel Farrimond, Alun Pari Huws, Andrew Stevenson and Eve & David Collen.

2. Dredging. After an introduction by the Chairman, Llyr Jones of Gwynedd County Council addressed the meeting. He began with an apology to the VDBHA for misinforming John O' Sullivan in April that dredging of Victoria Dock would be commencing in May this year. He assured the meeting of Gwynedd Council's commitment, both financial and contractual, for cutter suction dredging of the dock commencing in October 2018. He allayed concerns about similar dredging work due to take place in October for both Pwllheli and Victoria Dock, assuring the meeting that they were entirely separate contracts and that they would not be using the same dredgers. Other dredging-related matters covered by Llyr Jones included: environment/habitat assessment submitted to Natural Resources Wales in April; contract orders for dredging had been issued for October, and possibly November – operational details to be determined; contractor to provide a detailed programme; contractor to be allowed to use the berth holder toilets block; hours of dredging need to have regard to amenities of local residents; noise levels to be determined – if above a certain threshold, then hours of operation would have to be restricted; contractor has another commitment in December; dredging could affect winter berthing, to allow temporary relocation of existing berth holders' boats where this proves necessary.

Members raised a number of questions, including: was there to be any written confirmation of the proposed arrangements; re the Cadnant, given that it was the source of most of the silt, could it be diverted via a culvert; re reports of raw sewage entering the dock via the Cadnant, members were asked to report any further incidents to the Council; given that seven berths in the dock now unusable owing to silting, could anything be done about these as part of the dredging programme? Llyr Jones replied that this year's programme was focused on the area immediately inside the gate (prevention of damage to which is crucial) and the navigation area; the objective was to get as much silt out of the dock as possible.

Communications from Alun Pari Huws, Andrew Stevenson, and Eve & David Collen about the undesirable consequences of silting in the dock were read to those present, after which the Chair thanked Llyr Jones for attending.

3. GDPR and VDBHA data protection policy. John O’Sullivan pointed out the benefits of easy communication between members achievable by sharing email and telephone contact details. It was agreed that John Whittaker and Mark Walker should produce a draft data protection policy.

4. Berth holder service agreement. The Chair reported on progress. A draft agreement produced by the Harbour Trust needed more work to ensure that it reflected an obligation not only to provide safe berths but to provide a reasonably navigable route to and from each berth.

5. Any other business.

Survey. Noted that Lisa Sparkes was undertaking an anonymous questionnaire survey of a sample of berth holders as part of her dissertation on marine law. Those taking part were invited to return the questionnaire to the Dockmaster’s office. Four lucky participants would then be invited for a short interview.

Sea bass fishing ban. Noted that any bass caught in Welsh coastal waters or the Irish sea during 2018 must be returned immediately. This applies if you are fishing from a boat or from the shore (see [Welsh Government Guidance on sea bass fishing in Wales](#)).

Noise. John O’Sullivan noted that an enquiry had been made to the Harbour Trust about the noise made by the generators running all night on the Prince Madog while it was berthed at Caernarfon pier. The Harbour Master had pointed out that the generator noise is unfortunately something which cannot be avoided as Caernarfon remains a working harbour. Contrasting this with Gwynedd Council’s proposed restrictions on dredging at night, JO’S pointed out that the dredger was likely to make less noise, and would be further away from the flats.

VHF communication between members. Following the suggestion of a specified VHF channel for radio communication for VDBHA members, it was agreed that sharing of MMSI numbers would be more appropriate.

Membership. Members were urged to encourage fellow berth holders to join the Association. Agreed that a flyer explaining the aims of the VDBHA and inviting applications for membership should be produced and distributed to berth holders.