

Minutes of Meeting held on the terrace at Y Galeri - November 16th 2020

Attendees: Chris Jones (Chair VDBHA), Eddie Williams (Vice Chair VDBHA), John Whittaker (Secretary VDBHA), Barry Davies (Gwynedd Council Maritime Officer), Dave O'Neill (CHT Harbour Master)

Sincere apologies were received from BD that he had not relayed the invitation to attend to the name Council Officers. He made the meeting aware that this does not diminish its importance and that he will keep the Council informed of the meeting and future invitations.

1. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with all issues arising having been allocated to this meeting's agenda for update.

2. MARK SHACKLETON BOOK of CONDOLENCE

Mark Shackleton Book of Condolence had been circulated by berth holder, Mark Rayment. The meeting acknowledged the quality of the finished product and his outstanding effort in putting it all together.

DON will write with thanks to Mark Rayment on behalf of CHT.

3. DOCK MASTER APPOINTMENT

The necessary requirements are in place for an advertisement for the post to be advertised by the end of November with a view to appoint in January 2021.

It was explained that difficulties are envisaged in trying to find someone to work unsociable hours and weekends. Discussion was given to the importance of finding the right person with the qualities necessary to deal with the dock work as well as having the people and IT skills required. DON said that he will also include putting the training and potential career and qualification structures in place to help enable prospects for long term retention.

4. DREDGING UPDATE

BD informed the meeting that the contract had been awarded to a Dutch company, Royal Smalls. Work is to commence in January 2021 and is estimated to take 3 weeks.

DON said that it is likely to have to involve the moving of some vessels and thanked CJ for offers to help from VDBA and the co-operation of berth holders if and when required.

5. EFFLUENT ISSUE

BD had received information from Dwr Cymru that the outfall on the East wall is a combined sewage outfall from the Cadnant, which if when Arfon Council were aware of the issue at the time of planning the building of the marina, could have been done at reasonable cost. The estimated cost now for rectification and diversion of what is an essential requirement to stop flooding of buildings in Caernarfon is in the region of £10 Million. BD said that this is considered to be too costly by Gwynedd Council.

The outfall on the North Side which is causing concern to Natural Resources Wales as it is bringing hydrocarbons into that end of the dock. The contents have been attributed to road run off from a highways outfall. Gwynedd Council Drainage Department is going to implement a trace to find the source.

6. RWYC ROWING UPDATE

CJ informed the meeting that the covers have been made in preparation for the relocation of the RWYC Celtic longboat into the dock. The construction of the RWYC Caledonian Yawl is complete and following painting of its bottom will be ready for berthing on one of the pontoon fingers by the end of November. The meeting acknowledged that this was an important step of community involvement and encouraged local youngsters to become actively involved as well as providing interest for locals and tourists. BD said that he was pleased that this was taking place and was sure it would help in Councillors seeing the benefits to the community. EW said that he would be writing a piece in the local paper to cover this.

7. MENAI MARINE

DON explained that final terms are almost in place to enable the new owners to take possession. JW said that the new owners had been very encouraging about working with the VDBHA to provide services for berth holders and facilities for the RWYC rowers and their equipment.

EW said that he had talked with the new owners and would be including a feature in the Papur Bro about their business and their intentions for involvement with the community.

8. STORM DEFENCES

JW pointed out that we should not ignore the warnings of last year's mini typhoon when conditions of tide, wind and direction came together to cause entry into the dock and damage to vessels on moorings in the Menai Strait and sea defences. He gave some research he had done for cheap and effective solutions. BD offered to work together with JW and DON to investigate methods of defence which could potentially be implemented at reasonable cost to provide a temporary defence barrage against wave ingress into the dock.

9. TOILET FACILITIES

BD re-assured the meeting that plans and estimates for work have been done for the best layout option and this is a Council priority for completion once funds become available.

10. FEES

The structure of the fees and the different requirements of the Council run marinas of Pwllheli and Caernarfon, private operation commercial competition rules and restrictions, Winter dry storage, Summer and Winter fees vs Annual fee, the management of the Victoria Dock marina by CHT, the share of the berthing fee CHT/GC, costs and budget and the setting by the Council of an annual income target and percentage increase on the fees as well as other issues were discussed at length. BD said most importantly that they were open to suggestions and fully welcomed the input of VDBHA in the process.

CJ said that he saw this as an important acknowledgement of the existence of the VDBHA and looked forward to the involvement of the VDBHA on this matter.

11. PARKING

JW explained that parking is not a concessionary issue it is regarded by the VDBHA members as an essential requirement. The issue requires to be addressed as soon as possible to avoid conflict next season. Options were discussed to enable inclusion of

equitable parking fees, commensurate with use and location, to be included within the fees.

BD assured the meeting that he realised the importance of the issue of the provision of parking for boat owners and will consult with the parking department, DON and with JW on a formula along the lines of the discussions, in order to find a satisfactory outcome before next season.

12. FUTURE OF VDBHA

The future and relevance of the VDBHA were discussed in particular with the relation to the need for Officers of the Council, over and above BD's role to be involved and respect the position of the VDBHA in representation.

BD said that he was well aware of the importance of having associations such as Pwllheli and Victoria Dock to act as mediators and to represent issues. He said that it was difficult to think how the Council would respond to the extra administrative burden should such bodies not be in place and expressed his gratitude for their significant work.

CJ emphasised the relationship between the VDBHA, CHT and GC should be one of working together towards a mutual benefit for those directly involved with the Victoria Dock as well as those of the wider community.

CJ said that the VDBHA Committee would not be walking away just yet from the potential of this relationship but they do need to see more involvement and respectful communication and consideration forthcoming from the Council Officers in acknowledgement of its existence and representational role.

The meeting which started at 10.30am was held outside due to Covid-19 guidelines and closed in inclement conditions at 12.21pm.