

Meeting held at Y Galeri Monday 7th September 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)

1. Dredging

BD: The necessary testing done and the commissioning process actioned with tender bids due by mid September for contract completion by January 2021.

DON: Need to be informed of commencement in order to enable Winter berthing and movement.

BD: The contractor is unlikely to need boats to be moved as the suction can be done without dismantling of boats and with minimum movement required to boats

BD: Specified dredging depth to 2.4 metres

The Council are committed to continuing the dredging requirement on a 4 year cycle. Full HRA will not be required for disposal.

2. MARK SHACKLETON

DON: The family is to commemorate Mark Shackleton with a memorial plaque bollard on the South side of the Dock.

Only family members to attend the funeral.

Ashes to be scattered by the family on board the "Seiont" at 5pm on Friday 11th September. Non-family members are invited to pay their respects from the dockside.

The CHT will co-ordinate the arrangements and details for a sail-past on September 19th to coincide with High Water at 11.30am.

BD thanked the berth holders for all their support and fund raising organisation for their much loved and respected dock master, Mark Shackleton.

3. RWYC ROWING BOATS

CJ asked BD for permission to locate the RWYC Celtic longboat and rescue Rib plus rowing boats in the Victoria Dock. The presence of these boats would enhance the appearance of the Dock, and hopefully create local interest.

BD said that this would need to be enabled through liaison with CHT Harbour Master but there would be no charge made by Gwynedd Council for the facility on the assumption that this would not be taking up paid berths.

CJ thanked BD and will talk to rowing section of RWYC regarding the requirements for storage, changing requirements etc. He said that if a paid berth were to be needed then this would also be put to the rowing section for consideration.

4. MENAI MARINE UPDATE

DON: CHT is continuing to go over heads of terms agreement with the interested parties. Provided current negotiations are successfully completed the Menai Marine yard under new ownership will continue to provide boat related services and this was recognised by all present to be of benefit to the dock, berth holders and the community.

5. EFFLUENT DISCHARGE

BD: There is a combined overflow sewage outfall from the river Cadnant into the dock. This occurs at times of high rainfall. However, this has become more frequent and whereas originally the outfall would naturally have emptied from the dock this was not sufficiently considered when the new marina was built with its sill gate containment. BD will be bringing this to the attention of Gwynedd Environmental Health Department as a matter of concern. JW and EW identified rubbish being emptied into the dock via an outfall on the North Side corner. BD will identify this to Welsh Water to enable identification of the source.

6. PARKING

BD reported that the parking permits were ordered weeks ago and he can only apologise that they have not yet been issued for September 1st. He explained the internal budgeting situation and reported that when issued for this year that they would be for 6 months (Sept 1st – March 1st – requires clarification) Parking is an essential requisite for berth holders in order to have convenient access to vessels as well as being able to return after prolonged stay on board without fear of parking fines. The current provision does not allow for greater than overnight stay and the proposed method for fee paying by phone will not be possible when there is no signal at sea. The whole situation as it affects berth holders and users of the coastal path is under consideration with Council officers to provide a solution, which may mean a form of charge within the fees.

7. FEES

JW asked the basis of the increase of fees of up to 10% for the 2020/21 season on the previous season. BD explained that fees had not been increased in previous years due to lack of facilities and dredging but that the intention is for fees to be increased in future in line with inflation. CJ explained the necessity for a complete rethink on the structuring of the fees. A meeting needs to be arranged with Council Officers and CHT to discuss the future strategy.

8. TOILETS

BD said that the Council were still committed when funds are available for the potential conversion of the “boiler room” adjoining the current toilet/shower block into a separated female facility.

9. GOING FORWARD

CJ explained that whilst VDBHA has a good working relationship with CHT, it is important to draw up a new strategy to address issues and concerns to Council Officers. JW noted that, despite the immense input by PBHA and VDBHA committees through surveying their members, the communication with the Council was extremely slow and ignored opinion and proposals. It seems that, whereas the

PBHA and VDBHA commitment to represent berth holders is sought by the Council, both committees are currently having to provide a "filter" between the expectations for collective representation far beyond the reasonable expectation of voluntary commitment. This is particularly frustrating when Council is able to find funds of £60k of rate payers money to commission consultancies, while still requesting the opinions of berth holders, but then ignores both the recommendations of the consultants concerning investment, and the proposals of the berth holders regarding fees. This frustration has now reached the point where the purpose of having a berth holders association is being called into question by the VDBHA.

A meeting with VDBHA officers is to be arranged for Monday November 16th at 10.30am to which the following persons are to be invited :- Ieuan Thomas representing the Gwynedd Finance Portfolio Management, Sioned Williams (Gwynedd Council), Llyr Jones (Gwynedd Council), Barry Davies (Gwynedd Council) and Dave O'Neill (CHT).