

**Online Microsoft Teams meeting - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March @10am.**

Attendees: Barry Davies (Gwynedd Council Maritime Officer), David O' Neill (Caernarfon Harbour Trust), Chris Jones (Chair VDBHA), John Whittaker (Secretary VDBHA), Keith Elford (Treasurer VDBHA), Andrew Stephenson (VDBHA Committee), Colin Turner (VDBHA Committee)

**1. PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Minutes of the last meeting held November 16th 2020 were approved with the issues arising having been allocated to this meeting's agenda for update.

**2. DOCK MASTER APPOINTMENT**

After re-advertising the vacancy through the Council list DON informed the meeting that Mr. Danny Patton has been appointed and is hoped, after serving his notice with his current employers, to commence his duties around the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April

**3. DREDGING UPDATE**

BD informed the meeting that mobilisation of the dredging team of Royal Smalls is not permitted to take place due to current travel restrictions into UK.

Realistically the earliest will be in April and due to visual impact on the Menai Strait and the use of the dock there will be no work during the summer months from May onwards. As CHT and Pwllheli do not want another winter without revenue from winter berthing it seems likely that the most appropriate time for dredging to take place will be September. BD explained that it is likely that Victoria Dock will be done before Pwllheli which requires the dredging of the entrance channel and not the moving of boats.

The projected time scale for the dredging operation is 2-3 weeks.

BD and CHT will keep the VDBHA informed of the situation.

**4. EFFLUENT ISSUE**

Cadnant BD said that there will be no revision to the Council's decision of it being too costly to change the course.

No further news on effluent issues since the last meeting.

**5. RWYC ROWING UPDATE**

CJ informed the meeting that the covers and construction is complete for the relocation of the RWYC Celtic longboat and RWYC Caledonian Yawl. There is also a grant application in process for a new safety boat. Boats will be berthed in front of the gallery. CJ will liaise with DON for requirement and fitting of cleats etc.

DON also assured CJ's concerns that the slippy pontoon surfaces would be rectified.

**6. CAERNARFON BAR WRECK BUOY UPDATE**

DON informed the meeting that the necessary risk assessment is complete and costs and practicality are being considered for the placing of a fixed "Isolated Danger Mark" to be fixed to the wreck of the "Grampian Castle" on Caernarfon bar.

**7. MENAI MARINE UPDATE**

DON explained that the new owners "Above the Brine" are well aware of the objections and concerns regarding jet skiers using the dock facilities and are keen to work with respect to the health and environmental issues, noise and nuisance abatement requirements,

DON said that all jet skiers using the facility would have to be registered and would need

to pay the CHT for launching and that the place will not be filled with jet skiers.

The meeting agreed that new business should be supported and we should all be positive that more people are making use of the water and should wait to see what happens.

#### **8. FEES UPDATE**

BD informed the meeting that Council have agreed to set a rate for fees to a below rate of inflation rate amounting to a 1% increase for 2021/2022.

The meeting were in agreement that this was a reasonable outcome and BD was thanked for his representation to the Council of the VDBHA's opinions.

CJ said that he saw this as an important recognition of the importance of the lengthy discussions that had taken place on this matter over the past year.

#### **9. PARKING UPDATE**

BD informed the meeting that the Council has agreed to issue 6 month Gwynedd Council parking permits for North side berth holders from April – September 2021. These will be distributed by CHT in April.

Drop-Off and South Quayside Parking display permits will be printed and issued by CHT.

JW asked whether the 6 month parking permits set a precedent for the future or whether we will have to have the same fraught discussions on the matter every year.

BD explained that the Regulatory Authority will not allow permits for only local car parks as they have to be purchased for all Authority car parks. This makes a transferred budget cost requirement of 10K to BD's budget unsustainable and therefore something will have to be done to find a long term solution. He explained that there needs to be a complete change of attitude by the Regulatory Authority and a political drive by the relevant Council portfolio leaders.

DON agreed and shared the concerns of the lack of involvement of the portfolio leaders.

VDBHA will put the issue to the berth holders in the forthcoming survey and at the AGM so that they are aware of the situation.

DON, BD and the VDBHA officers will work together to progress ways forward with the Regulatory Authority and its relevant portfolio leaders, Ioan Thomas (Finance) and Gareth Thomas (Economic Development and Community).

BD suggested, due to the reduced need for parking spaces for Council employees following the pandemic and work from home initiatives, that other parking areas such as the dockside multi-storey car park could also be considered.

BD explained that the open area by the toilet block is not acceptable for additional parking spaces as it would detract from the ambience of the area and its position next to the World heritage Site of Caernarfon Castle.

The matter of the parking will be put to the berth holders via survey and AGM.

## **12. FUTURE OF VDBHA**

CJ said that the outcomes received today following the discussions over the year reflected the collaboration and the importance of the VDBHA going forward in representing the opinions of the berth holders. This was endorsed by BD and DON.

## **13. AOB**

### **a) Speed Limits**

DON informed the meeting that policing of the Strait and in the vicinity of the dock will be increased particularly as it is likely to be a very busy summer ahead. He explained that whilst they will need to “up their game” following the relaxation of lockdown, the designated new speed limits will still be difficult to enforce due to evidence gathering and legal costs. However, they will be encouraging people to abide by the regulations and citing fines imposed in other areas to help discourage transgression.

BD has printed large registration stickers for personal watercraft. All PWC launching from Anglesey or Gwynedd must display these stickers. Smaller stickers issued by Conwy Council will not be regarded as eligible in Gwynedd or Anglesey.

BD said that the Chief Executive is looking into the impact of the lifting of lockdown restrictions on tourism and use of the coast and beaches.

### **b) Security**

DON said that webcams will be back in action by next week and that Andy Baguley is on the case

In respect of the recent arson attack on boats on Caernarfon slate quay DON told the meeting that this had been a planned and determined attack and that he has had a report that the perpetrators may now have been apprehended. He said that no matter what fencing had been put in place it would not have stopped the resolve and determination of the individuals concerned to gain entry to cause damage.

He feared that the knock on effect and costs and competition from PD marina and Dickies make the future of quayside storage uncertain.

DON was confident that the current level of safety and security of boats in Victoria Dock is sufficient and that it will not necessarily be improved by moving the South Side coded gate or increasing fencing particularly if individuals want to scale high fences.

### **c) On Line Video Conferencing Platform**

AS informed the meeting that he has the facility to set up large audience virtual conferences on Zoom.

The meeting agreed that this would be a preferred method and that AS should be requested to set up the facility for future meetings .

The meeting which started at 10.00am was closed at around 11am.