

Minutes of VDBHA Zoom meeting Jan 10th 2022

Members present - CJ, KE, EW, AS, Apologies from JW, CT

This meeting was called as an update for committee members and to consider future strategies in preparation for the next AGM in April.

Overview - during the past nearly two years the work of the committee has been somewhat fragmented largely due us having to adopt a pragmatic approach during the Covid pandemic when it was easier for members living locally to deal with the few face to face meetings that were able to take place and the rest was done by email or via zoom. On the plus side this has introduced us to a new normal where berth holders living further away would be able to become involved in the future if they were willing - we do however need to bear in mind that, regardless of technological advances, there is no substitute to face to face meetings as a way of making progress.

So, the issues are:

- Four members of the current committee are standing down at the next AGM.
- EW and KE are prepared to stand again as Chair and Treasurer respectively - thereby ensuring continuity.
- At the last AGM no new berth holders expressed a willingness to stand and so the existing committee were voted in again resulting in some commenting that it was turning into a closed shop. This will clearly not be the case next April.
- In order to give ourselves time to ensure that we leave matters in the best possible state regarding future berth holder representation, we need to put out a call for 2022 committee nominations asap with a closing date of say mid February.
- The roles of Vice Chair and Secretary plus two committee members require nominations although, following previous practice, all positions are voted on each AGM so in theory a completely new committee could be appointed.
- If we get sufficient nominations the VDBHA will continue as now and our only job, prior to the AGM, will be to design, distribute and collate the results of the annual survey.
- In order to gauge current views it might therefore be an advantage to put the survey out early at the same time as the call for nominations. We will then hopefully have an overview of how things stand at present and this will best inform the way ahead.
- If we fail to get any nominations for the next AGM we will have to move to Plan B
- Plan B would involve disbanding the VDBHA as it is presently constituted and designing a new more corporate forum involving GC, CHT and say three berth holder representatives to meet, as required, but at least 4 times a year to discuss matters relating to the Dock. This move would be based on the assumption that the VDBHA was set up initially to confront the issues of dredging and car parking and, since these matters have been resolved, it is no longer necessary to have such an independent pressure group. It is however important that some channel of berth holder representation be put in place should VDBHA be dissolved.
- Stumbling points are likely to be around the management of the website and annual survey and these would be matters for the new committee / organisation to resolve but a number of possible alternatives were discussed including putting the website out to commercial management.
- I have had telephone conversations with both Dave O'Neill and Barry Davies regarding the above and they are both supportive of berth holder representation continuing albeit not necessarily on the current format.
- Finally, I've had verbal confirmation from Barry once again that parking permits will be available to all berth holders next season on a tick the box basis and that dredging now figures as a regular aspect of Dock management.

I think that about covers it, but please get back to me if I've missed anything out or misconstrued. I suggest Saturday April 9th as date for the next AGM.

Cheers

Chris