

Minutes of the Victoria Dock Berth Holders Association A.G.M.

Caernarfon Sailing Club, 11a.m. 1st April 2023

Present

E. Williams(Chair), K Elford (Treasurer), Mrs Elford, K.Jones ,(Secretary) T. Bingham, D Farrimond, A.Baker, P.Harris,M.

Jones,A.Williams,L.Sparkes,M.Smith,M.Knowles,P.Trematick, C.Jones, P.Rowney,J.Whittaker,I .Craft,A Baguley, N.Roberts.

D. O'Neill (CHT),I.Rees Jones(CHT), G.Owen (G.C.C.)

(The Hon Sec noted that she used the signing-in register to list those present. Members present who did not sign are accordingly not listed).

Apologies

D.Williams,E. and C.Ward,A. Stevenson,J. Hey,S. and J. Selby, F.andP.Jelley,M.Spencer,L.Bishop, R. Brearley,G.Hilditch,F. Jones,T. Knowles,M.Walker, D.Green,F. Ratcliffe ,E Rowland,A Parri Hughes.

Eddie welcomed the berth holders, David O'Neill and Iwan Rees Jones (C.H.T.) and Gerwyn Owen (Gwynedd C.C.). It was noted it was Gerwyn's first day on the job and, like David O'Neill ,both had attended on a non-working day.

Apologies were read out and a special mention made for John Hey.Those present sent their regards to John and his family.

A.G.M.minutes 2022

These were accepted by those present and no matters arising.

Proposed N .Roberts Seconded A.Baker

Chair's report

Eddie thanked Dr. J.O 'Sullivan, Pam Wrench, Chris Jones and all other past Committee members for initially setting up the Committee (John) and developing good relations with C.H.T.and Gwynedd C.C.The berth holders are reaping the rewards of their work.

The report had been circulated before the meeting and Eddie went through the points raised noting : Covid period – he thanked everyone for their forbearance during this period. It was a trying time for the Committee during that time.

Barry Davies retired yesterday 31.3.23 and, on behalf of the berth holders, sent him best wishes for the future. Eddie said that in his opinion, Victoria Dock is the best value marina in North Wales.

Treasurer's report.

Keith reported that the finances were up to date to midnight 31.3.23. His report has already been circulated to members. The higher I.T. costs were due to paying for 3 years e-mail facility – which worked out considerably cheaper.

No comments

Proposed J.Whittaker Seconded C.Jones

John Whittaker was thanked for his invaluable work compiling and conducting the yearly survey. As the survey results were shown berth holders comments were invited and comments sent on the survey were discussed.

Dredging comments

Mud around the edge and slipway – worse after the dredging

David O Neill said that during the dredging it was agreed the mud would be left around the edge (hopefully forming at 45 degrees) to support the wall.

It was agreed, however, that the mud needs to be lower as it is above the low tide level and smells.

Pontoon disfiguration – the dredger would not go within a metre of the pontoons.

When the next hydrographic survey is undertaken these comments will be taken into consideration and action taken as necessary . Also the mud on the slipway needs addressing and possibly removal of the rail.

Parking permits

These were ready for distribution after the meeting. A lot of work has been done by the previous and present committees and in answer to questions raised regarding the north side apparently losing the 12 month agreed parking permits it was explained how the parking permit had been originally set up and about later discussions to untangle misunderstandings and compromises. The present situation has been agreed as the way forward. David O Neill and Gerwyn Owen will also look at it in the future.

Gate opening times

Some berth holders have been in the dock for many years and feel there has been an erosion of timings without consultation. A number of members raised their concerns .

David O Neill said C.H.T. are trying to strike a fair balance between berth holders and staff needs.

At the moment the 48 hr. warning time will remain along with the opening times.

The gate is reaching the end of its life and when a new one is commissioned it will probably be replaced with an automatic one.

Powerboat event.

This will be taking place but C.H.T. has taken into account the concerns raised by the berth holders. No one will be parking by the dock or toilet area and the toilets will not be used .

The vehicles etc will be based by the harbour and only the racing boats will access the dock. This event is said to be very popular and good for the local economy, so is going ahead with, hopefully ,little disruption to berth holders.

Speed limits

David O Neill explained that there are many byelaws in the straits and, working within them, a series of speed limit areas have been set up.

Toilets

It was agreed, after discussions regarding the proposed provision, that the Committee resend a proposal to Gwynedd C.C. and C.H.T. Kathy will look at suggestions from those present, from email responses and from survey responses and will send recommendations to the C.H.T and G.C.C before work is undertaken. This will be done this week.

Fuel provision

Diesel provision – everyone pleased

Petrol – not really a great need in the dock and the provision of petrol too much of a hazard.

Gas safety

This was not deemed necessary and would require a lot of organisation.

Effluent

There is an unacceptable amount of pollution ,especially from the Cadnant.
David O Neill suggested the Committee make representation to Welsh Water.

Dogs on leads

It was understood that there were well behaved dogs that usually wouldn't need to be on a lead. However, the dock charter states that all dogs must be on a lead. David O 'Neill stated that this was an issue for the staff – cleaning up after dogs is a regular problem and said that the rules regarding dogs will be enforced

Waste facility

Iwan, addressing the comments raised in the survey, said the cameras were on the facility and he has only seen berth holders using the facility. No concerns raised.

Storm defence

After concerns were raised it was agreed that the Council should have a long term view and some sort of storm boards should be considered in the plans for the new gate when it is replaced. A marine architect needs to be consulted.

WIFI

The system is updated but further additions need upgraded fibre.

Access

The new gate on the south side is being fitted on 17th April. The work will last 3 days and, should south side berth holders need access to their boats etc. , the dock staff will ferry them. Please contact Iwan during this time. David O' Neill explained that this has been deemed necessary due to maintenance requirements and a replacement was the most cost effective solution.

David O'Neill said the keypad gate may be removed in the future as they were trying to enhance the look of the dock and make it more coherent overall, rather than a north and south area .

Many concerns were raised regarding the security:

Low gates on the north side allowing easy access, and trespassing had been witnessed by many berth holders.

Access to the south side is possible via rafted up boats. Those present felt the security was a big issue and aesthetics should not compromise security – the gate in the south should be kept/boats not used as access to the pontoons and the north gate height needs to be made higher .

Fob Keys – will there be a deposit? Yes

What happens if the key fob doesn't work? For visitors the gate will be opened by a regularly changing key code. Iwan will keep all berth holders informed of this code.

All workmen/contractors will need to report to the office, sign in and then will be given access to the dock.

Security

There have been some serious issues, reported to the police but, once dealt with by the police/coastguard, nothing has happened and not even the dockmaster informed. Eddie wrote to Mr Dunbobbin, the crime commissioner and, within a day, received a reply from Ian

Roberts, newly appointed Inspector (North Wales District) offering an officer to meet the Committee, Harbour Master and Dock Master.

C.H.T. Team

The survey reported a very high satisfaction rate for the C.H.T. Team and David and Iwan were thanked by all.

A.O.B.

Will it be possible to have a pump out facility on the dock?

David O' Neill said there was a pump but due to lack of use, it rusted and was removed. Some berth holders present felt that, past events notwithstanding, there is now a need for such a facility.

Some berthholders felt it is not safe to walk at night from the north side while boats have holding tanks they could use. A pump out facility would therefore be much appreciated. C.H.T. would look at it if enough berth holders would use the facility. Perhaps it could be on the survey next year or berth holders could email the hon.sec.

Proof of boat insurance: C.H.T. cannot legally hold the insurance document as proof of insurance, so the tick box has to suffice and C.H.T. has therefore to rely on members' good faith.

Navigation light: this tends to be blinding for incoming boats. A light shield is being fitted.

Nominations for Committee for the 12 months

Chair: Eddie Williams (for 1 further year only)

Vice Chair: Matthew Smith Proposed Kathy Jones Seconded Tom Bingham

Treasurer: Keith Elford (for a further and final year as Keith has been the treasurer since the start of the committee.)

Secretary: Lisa Sparkes Proposed Eddie Williams Seconded Kathy Jones

Membership secretary: Iwan Rees Jones Proposed Eddie Williams Seconded John Whittaker

Committee Member: Daniel Farrimond Proposed Tom Bingham Seconded Eddie Williams

A vote of thanks was given, on behalf of the berth holders, to the Committee.

Meeting concluded and all moved to enjoy an excellent lunch.

Kathy Jones, Hon Sec

April 1st, 2023