

**MINUTES OF FULL MEETING OF WELLS HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS (WHC)
HELD @ THE MALTINGS**

25th May 2021 AT 6:30PM

PRESENT: Mel Catton (MC) – Chair, Ashley Mullenger (AM), Brian Riches (BR), Denys Hickey (DH), Nick Groom (NG), Chris Thomson (CT), Kevin Theobald (KT), Bob Ellis (BE), Sally Wynne (SW), Andy McCallum (AMc)

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: Robert Smith (RS) Harbour Master, Simon Cooper (SAC) Harbour Administrator

1. CHAIRMAN WELCOME

MC thanked all for attending and had nothing specific to raise at this time.

APOLOGIES

Josh Danziger (JD),

2. APPROVE MINUTES

The Commissioners confirmed that they were happy for MC to sign the minutes from the last meeting.

3. YTD FINANCIALS

SAC was pleased to report that the accounts for the year were in good shape and above last years performance and close to the 2019 performance save for the car park income which due to lockdown and the road works, little income was achieved in the first 3 months.

4. HARBOUR EXECUTIVE UPDATE

RS/SAC then went on to run through the written update that formed part of the agenda item adding;

1. Albatros – SAC had circulated the draft license agreement ahead of the meeting and asked the Commissioners to pay particular attention Appendix A which was a reiteration of usage policy for the Albatros
2. Sailing Club Land – SAC advised we await for the Council to sign the land registry forms.
3. Car Park – MC and SAC met with the barrier contractor who provided comfort that solutions to some of the potential issues could be managed and dealt with. At the next meeting a presentation will be made so as to make a decision on whether we change and move away from the current system.
4. Cabby – RS advised that the survey was now being completed.
5. Lobster Hatchery – SAC advised that the tanks were delivered and now being installed. The Fishing Inspectorate had also attended and had given their agreement. The aim is to be up and running in June. The Commissioners discussed having a grand opening which would be held later in the summer once the hatchery was established and we had confidence in the system working. The Commissioners were asked to also think about potential ‘famous’ candidates to open the hatchery when the time comes.
6. Oil Pollution contingency planning – the 5 year plan was signed off and also the T2 3 yearly exercise was undertaken on the quayside.
7. Beach Patrol – RS advised that we had procured a boat which might be better served as beach patrol as it would allow the crew to socially distance. The WHC agreed that a decision

on whether to run beach patrol this year would be reviewed once June 21 had arrived and the COVID measures were better understood.

8. Lucy Lavers – Liam Pink has taken over running the Lucy Lavers and will start operating this week.
9. Seaweed Farm – no specific update other than the company expect to submit their license application next month.
10. Flooding updates – RS had been asked to present to the town council which the Commissioners agreed was fine to accept. RS also advised that he would also suggest that the only real opportunity to improve defences in Wells was to erect flood walls as we have around the Harbour office. Whilst we can obtain the quotations it would obviously not be the harbours expense to undertake the works but it would provide the Town Council the extent of how much it would cost to improve the level of protection in the town.
11. Port Management Safety Code – the review that is required to be undertaken will be postponed until September as we had ran out of time to have it done in May.
12. SCIRA – no further update to report
13. Projects – RS confirmed the slipway extension had been completed. Costings for the fishermans quay pontoons would be obtained as whilst there was a little negative feedback overall the benefits to safety would seem to outweigh the inconvenience factor mentioned by one of the fisherman. Once we have a cost to implement it will be easier to decide if the Commissioners wished to proceed or not.
14. Heritage Harbour – RS explained to the Commissioners about the ‘accolade’ that could be obtained if we are to apply for Heritage Harbour status. Whilst it is hard to quantify the benefits or the drawbacks, RS recommended we continue to investigate and look to make a decision once we had greater information as to whether we wished to pursue. SW was being asked to support this initiative in parallel with the historic vessels such as the cabby as the 2 topics are closely aligned. AM suggested that it would be worth speaking to another Harbour who had become a heritage harbour so as to understand what their experiences were. CT cautioned the WHC as sometimes having a ‘protected’ status can backfire when you wish to develop/change as you have with listed buildings. RS said that we would consider all of these aspects as part of the decision making process.
15. Letter regarding Motorbike Parking – an e-mail from a resident was circulated to the Commissioners for their perusal and comment. Essentially the parking area for motorbikes was moved several years ago when it was deemed to be unsafe having the motorbikes ‘weaving’ around the people gillying at the quayside and by moving the parking area over towards the diesel bowser they are separated well away from pedestrians.

5. COMMISSIONER UPDATES

KT advised that the new Tractor was still being pursued but no suitable vehicles had been found.

No other Commissioners had updates or further comments.

6. WHMT

Festival of Sport – APHS had now submitted the ticket requirement which SAC is following up on with Festival of Sport. The WHMT had already met and agreed to match fund the school upto c£1500/2000.

AOB

RS advised some filming was going to be made in the harbour that involved hiring out the Frank T. It may lead to more work but at present it is a preliminary investigation.

7. Staff Matters

None

Meeting was then closed @ 20.20

Approved.....

Mel Catton

Date.....