



St Helier Boat Owners Association

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at St Helier Yacht Club on the 20th August 2020 at 17.30.

Present:	W Simpson (WS) P Carter (PC) M Clarke (MC) G Gaudin (GG) K Hennelly (KH) M Peters (MP) P Rose (PR) N Wood (NW) V Walker (VW)	Action
1. Apologies	P Donne Davis (PDD)	
2. Minutes	The minutes of the last meeting were approved & signed.	
3. Hon. Secretary	<p>It was reported to the meeting that the Hon Secretary, Peter Donne Davis, had decided to retire from the committee after some nineteen years in office. WS commented, to unanimous agreement, that PDD's contribution to the Committee over the years had been absolutely invaluable, both in terms of the conduct of day-to-day business and also in attending to the detailed administrative work of the Association. The meeting accepted his resignation with considerable regret, and wished the very best to him and his wife Pat for the future.</p> <p>The meeting voted to grant life membership to Peter and Pat, and WS undertook to express the Committee's gratitude to the membership at the 2020 AGM.</p> <p>It was also reported that Christine Gill, a past Hon. Treasurer & committee member of the Association, had volunteered to re-join the committee and to assume the role of Hon. Secretary, subject to not assuming responsibility for the IT functions which PDD had managed. This was agreed. It was unanimously agreed to approve this appointment and Christine Gill was duly co-opted to join the committee as Hon. Secretary with immediate effect. Her appointment would be submitted to the forthcoming 2020 AGM for approval.</p>	WS
4. Matters Arising	<p>Elizabeth Gate – It appeared that the project has been deferred due to the Covid situation.</p> <p>Parking - It was noted that parking around the Marinas had become quite congested, presumably as a result of Covid and the large number of boat owners vacationing at home this year. Additionally, it was noted that</p>	

	<p>there seemed to be a very high incidence of trade vehicles in the La Colette car park while St Helier marina car park had a number of UK & French visitors' cars in evidence. Parking facilities in all the marinas had been stretched beyond capacity in what was accepted as being very unusual circumstances.</p> <p>Dinghy Cull – The planned cull at the end of March had been cancelled due to Covid, and it was agreed to seek to reinstate this, as the Dinghy pontoon had again become unkempt during the summer.</p> <p>Old Harbour - Maintenance & provision of ladders and handrails around the old harbour and South Pier continued to be a matter for concern, with no obvious evidence of appropriate maintenance being applied. The concrete blocks adjacent to the South Pier drying berth had not been moved.</p> <p>Marina Walk - The walk around the Marinas conducted on 3 March had almost immediately been followed by the Covid lockdown, but it was agreed to repeat the exercise at an appropriate time in the future, probably after the start of the summer season when there was a more representative view of berth occupancy. PC tabled an email he had received from Simon Porritt (SP) relating to a berth in La Collette which implied that PoJ was exercising rather more discretion than previously with regard to empty berths of long standing (i.e. more than 12 months). The meeting wondered whether there were adequate disincentives for berth-holders maintaining empty berths over a long period while there was a long waiting list. WS to explore with SP.</p>	WS
5. Chairman's Report	<p>The Chairman reported to the meeting that the Hon. Treasurer, Mark Peters, had indicated that he wished to relinquish this role. He proposed resigning w.e.f. the 2021 AGM and sooner if a suitable alternative emerges in the interim. He stood ready to support the new incumbent as he/she learns the role. MP commented that a major issue affecting his tenure had been the list of members who routinely fail to update their subscriptions or otherwise fail to respond to correspondence, and it was noted that this had been a problem over a lengthy period of time.</p> <p>The meeting thanked MP for his dedicated efforts in sometimes difficult circumstances and for his hard work. The committee unanimously wished to record its appreciation & gratitude for his valuable contribution.</p> <p>The meeting discussed possible candidates to assume the role of Treasurer and WS undertook to progress this.</p> <p>WS reported that he had received several telephone calls from the Harbourmaster during the Covid period to give advance warning of new developments, which was very helpful. The situation had been very fluid, and it had not always been practical to communicate the new procedures in detail before they were clarified & then superseded.</p> <p>The Marina Office appeared to have remained closed so far throughout the summer months, which has caused issues for leisure boaters seeking support and information. WS would try to ascertain when the office was likely to reopen.</p>	<p>WS</p> <p>WS</p> <p>WS</p> <p>WS</p>

6. Treasurer's Report	<p>MP reported that the current status a total membership of 364, of whom 238 were fully paid up members, 40 had paid at an outdated rate, 76 were unpaid at the date of the meeting, and 10 members had paid despite their previous resignation from the Association.</p> <p>MP tabled two letters from the RNLI and JILA thanking the Association for its donation.</p>	
7. AGM Planning	<p>The meeting discussed the format for the 2020 AGM. A meeting in the normal format was agreed as the preferred choice but it was recognised that this might not be feasible due to Covid restrictions. Furthermore, it was agreed that if it did prove feasible, we would not to offer food and drink after the meeting because of Covid-related complications, with the cost savings being donated to the Association's chosen charities.</p> <p>In the event that an alternative format is required, the meeting favoured a Webinar meeting format provided that the required 25 members were present to achieve a quorum. The need to control numbers and to identify attendees was discussed and the possibility of using a ticketing system (such as Eventbrite)</p> <p>It was agreed that WS would email the membership to canvass views on the AGM format and to gauge how many members might attend in person if a meeting were convened in the usually way. WS would also talk to St H YC about the experiences with their forthcoming AGM in early September.</p> <p>In the meantime, WS requested that committee members with the appropriate skills investigate the logistics of organising a webinar</p> <p>It was agreed that the Harbourmaster and the Marine Leisure Manager should be invited to the AGM.</p> <p>It was proposed, subject to confirmation, to hold the AGM in whatever guise on Tuesday 24 November 2020.</p>	<p>WS</p> <p>NW/PC</p> <p>WS</p> <p>WS</p>
8. Any Other Business	<p>The committee discussed possible candidates for future committee membership. WS would explore the opportunities</p> <p>KH wondered what the state of progress is on the St Helier Marina Project, as he had heard suggestions that all funding had been withdrawn in the current circumstances.</p> <p>NW emphasised the urgent need to expand marina capacity to contain the recent strong growth in boat ownership which he foresaw as continuing into 2021.</p> <p>The meeting noted the apparent lack of presence of marina staff in the marina offices, around the marinas, and in the harbour area generally, and the apparent anomalies as regards empty marina berths and waiting lists. It looked forward to a resumption of normal service as soon as</p>	<p>WS</p> <p>WS</p> <p>WS</p>

	<p>feasible.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the traffic lights in Elizabeth Marina. Various members had expressed concern about congestion around the entrance as boats awaited a green light. PR favoured installing repeat lights at various points further down the marina so that boats at the North end could see the current status of the traffic lights from their berths, thus reducing the tendency of boats to cluster around the entrance in anticipation of a green light.</p>	WS
9. Next Meeting & Termination	<p>The date of the next meeting was proposed as 1st October 2020 at 17.30. The meeting was closed at 1900.</p>	