

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LITTLEHAMPTON HARBOUR  
STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION GROUP HELD IN THE ARUN YACHT CLUB  
ON TUESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018**

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Present: Philip Bush (LHB) – Chairman  
Billy Johnson (Harbour Master)  
Sgt Martin Price CP816 (Sussex Police)  
PC Sam Fenner CF184 (Sussex Police)  
Cllr Ian Buckland (WSCC, ADC and LTC)  
Daniel Parker (Littlehampton Charter Fisherman – OURJOY)  
Ivan Warren (RNLI Lifeboat Station)  
Alastair Tyrell (AYC)  
Chris Headon (Boat and PWC owner)  
Martin Blaker (RNLI)  
Stuart Fairweather (AYC)  
Nigel Anderson (Boat Owner/Resident Mariners Quay)  
Chris Roberts [Littlehampton Sea Cadets)  
David Robinson (AYC)  
Robert Boyce (Osborne of Arun)  
Simon Gibson (Ropewalk Flood Action Group)

**ITEM 1 – INTRODUCTION AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.  
Apologies had been received from:

Nick White (Lifeboat Station Manager)  
John Begley (Sussex Police)  
Wes Smart (Harbour Park)  
Helen Bryett (Ship and Anchor)  
Mike Ingle (The Boatyard)  
Nigel Draffan (Angmering Park Estate)  
Barry Almond (AYC)  
Gerry McGeehan (Mariner's Quay Resident /Arun Rivertalk)  
Mark Taylor (LYC)  
Bill Chapman (Boat Owner)  
Vernon Parker (Littlehampton Charter Fisherman – OURJOY)

**ITEM 2 – MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING and MATTERS ARISING**

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 October 2017 were noted.

The following matters arising were highlighted:

Item 4 – Accident Reporting. HM confirmed that links to the MAIB website were now available through the LHB website.

Item 5a – Dredging. The HM had received a request for beneficial use of dredged material in Ropewalk.

Item 5b – AtN. A request to remove the AYAC AtN had been sent by the HM to Trinity House.

Item 8a – LNtM. LNtM concerning seasonal marks had been cancelled by LN 9 of 2017.

Item 9f – AOB Red Diesel. The suspension of checks of Red Diesel in Belgium remains in force.

### **ITEM 3 – UPDATE FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

RNLI Lifeboat Station. Ivan Warren summarised the incidents where Lifeboats had been involved in the last period as follows:

Service calls since 4<sup>th</sup> October.

7<sup>th</sup> October Atlantic launch to assist Selsey Lifeboat to search for kayakers 2 located by West works landed ashore.

8<sup>th</sup> October D class broken down boat 500 M off harbour entrance towed in.

8<sup>th</sup> October D class launched to dog on shingle bank West works recovered before lifeboat arrived.

18<sup>th</sup> October Atlantic launched to broken down boat out of fuel towed back in.

28<sup>th</sup> October Atlantic launched to broken down boat 50 yrd off Rustington towed to mooring in harbour.

29<sup>th</sup> October Atlantic launched to search for person possibly in sea at Rustington no one found.

1<sup>st</sup> November both boats paged person threatening to jump off Bognor pier Atlantic reddied but not launched D class stood down on route person with police.

9<sup>th</sup> November Atlantic launched to search area off Kingston gorse member of public heard loud bangs was a boat seen nothing found.

24<sup>th</sup> December D class launched to windsurfer off Rustington sail and board returned to owner on beach.

RNLI Beach Patrol. Annual summary report had not yet been received from the RNLI Beach Patrol. The HM wondered if any other member of the group had seen

the report. Martin Blaker (RNLI) believed that there was a delay in producing the report caused by difficulties collating data with HMCG.

HMCG. No report had been received from HMCG. However, Martin Blaker reported that he was aware that the HMCG were very busy at the moment.

Sussex Police. The Chairman welcomed Sgt Price and PC Fenner to the meeting. Sgt Price explained that there appeared to be under reporting of crime in and around Littlehampton Harbour he was also aware of incidents of anti-social behaviour. He urged people to report issues to the police at the time of the incident. He said a greater presence of police was planned to include patrols on the water. He added that the deployment of crime detection equipment would be considered.

To assist communication between harbour users and the police he would set up a dedicated E-Mail address. [Once received I will distribute to all group members BJ]

Nigel Anderson highlighted his concerns about the police response to reports of outboard thefts and discussed. His comments were noted.

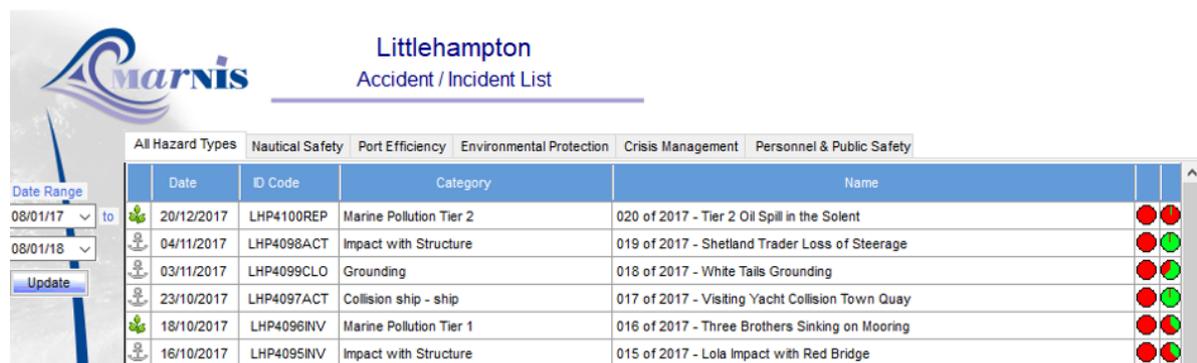
Nigel Anderson also mentioned the Arun River Talk initiative and the associated dedicated E-Mail distribution list. Sgt Price asked to be included in the distribution list.

Cllr Ian Buckland welcomed and congratulated the police on their positive involvement with the harbour.

David Robinson asked if he could be included on the distribution list in order that he could disseminate relevant information in the AYC Weekly Briefing. He was asked to provide his E-Mail address.

#### **ITEM 4 –ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT REPORTS REVIEW**

The HM reported the following accidents and incidents since the last group meeting:



Date Range		Date	ID Code	Category	Name		
08/01/17	to	20/12/2017	LHP4100REP	Marine Pollution Tier 2	020 of 2017 - Tier 2 Oil Spill in the Solent	●	●
08/01/18		04/11/2017	LHP4098ACT	Impact with Structure	019 of 2017 - Shetland Trader Loss of Steerage	●	●
		03/11/2017	LHP4099CLO	Grounding	018 of 2017 - White Tails Grounding	●	●
		23/10/2017	LHP4097ACT	Collision ship - ship	017 of 2017 - Visting Yacht Collision Town Quay	●	●
		18/10/2017	LHP4096INV	Marine Pollution Tier 1	016 of 2017 - Three Brothers Sinking on Mooring	●	●
		16/10/2017	LHP4095INV	Impact with Structure	015 of 2017 - Lola Impact with Red Bridge	●	●

The HM reported that the Accident and Incident Reporting system on the LHB website was now working and that he had received the reports regarding the theft and attempted thefts of outboard engines.

The HM further reported that following the theft from the vessel 'HOOK-A-FISH' in May 17, CCTV footage captured by harbour staff had been used by the police to apprehend the culprit who had subsequently been found guilty court.

## **ITEM 5 – CONSERVANCY ACTIVITY**

The HM provided an update on conservancy activity issues.

### a. Dredging.

The shingle bank at the entrance to the Harbour had been dredged at the end of November with some 6,000 tons being excavated. Most was recycled by the EA although some 350 tons was used to bolster the foreshore above the West Training Wall. This was a co-ordinated initiative with the ADC and would continue in the future on an as required basis.

Cllr Ian Buckland advised that some further research had revealed some anti erosion infrastructure had been installed in the vicinity of the West Bank Training Wall.

The HM reported that maintenance dredging was currently taking place at yacht clubs and LHB moorings.

### b. Aids to Navigation.

The HM reported that following recent correspondence with Trinity House the inshore buoy laid by AYAC was to remain.

### c. Environmental Protection.

The HM confirmed that dredge activity restrictions were now in place at the Climping SSSI.

Harbour staff had responded to a Tier 1 oil pollution incident where the Three Brothers had sunk on its mooring and were also mobilised over the Christmas period in response to an oil spill in the Solent.

d. Maintenance Activity.

The HM reported that maintenance activity by LHB staff on the West Works was ongoing following the slight damage caused by a recent inbound transit of the 'Islay Trader'.

**ITEM 6 – PLANT AND EQUIPMENT EXPECTED.**

The HM reported that work to complete the outstanding East Bank Flood Defence works in River Road had now been completed. The jack up barge was due to depart on 10 Jan 18 although the workboat 'Avon' was to remain in the harbour for at least another week.

The HM reported that cranes had been booked 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 18, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 18 and a date tbc in March and that some lift out spaces were still available.

**ITEM 7 – HARBOUR DUES**

The HM advised that the LHB would not be appealing a recent preliminary court ruling on pontoon charges which found that the LHB did not have the right to levy such charges on the basis that pontoons were not 'vessels'. The LHB would not be making such charges going forward, but as it had a statutory duty to try to cover costs it would be necessary to increase other harbour dues to cover the annual shortfall. The anticipated rise to vessel dues would be between 10% and 12%. Further increases would be kept under review until the extent of claims made against the LHB and requests for refunds becomes clear. Given the ongoing litigation it would not be appropriate to discuss further but if anyone had specific queries the HM invited them to write to get in touch with the Harbour Office.

Daniel Parker asked if applied solely to harbour dues and not mooring fees. He was advised that this was the case.

David Robinson raised series of issues concerning the LHB Schedule of Charges He stated that following the recent court ruling fuelling barges and/or pontoons were now exempt and should not be listed in the Schedule of Fees.

The HM responded by stating that such fees, although included on the schedule of charges, had not been levied and that future schedules would be amended to reflect this.

Mr Robinson further opined that administration charges were unlawful and added that in his interpretation of the law debt recovery charges were also unlawful.

The Chairman recommended that he present his concerns as written questions to the Board. Meanwhile, the LHB would seek clarification from their legal advisers.

Robert Boyce that any lost income could be made up by charging Tarmac more.

Nigel Anderson suggested that increasing Harbour Dues could result in vessels moving elsewhere. His observation was noted.

### **ITEM 8 – MOORING AREAS**

The HM circulated a chart to those present that outlined proposals for designated mooring areas within the bound of Littlehampton Harbour. As part of the consultation process he invited comments. [These charts can be found at the Annex]

### **ITEM 9 - COMMUNICATIONS**

a. Local Notices to Mariners.

The standard standing notices remain in force. The HM highlighted two other LNtM concerning repairs to the West training Wall and Workboat and Jack-Up Operations within the Harbour.

b. Publication of 2018 Tide Tables. The HM advised that the 2018 Tide tables had now been published. In response to a question he undertook to deliver a supply to the AYC. Simon Gibson congratulated the staff for producing another excellent Tide Table publication.

c. River Talk

Was covered previously in the meeting. Those interested in signing up were invited to submit their email addresses.

### **ITEM 10 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a. Sussex Police. Nigel Anderson wondered if it was necessary for the representatives from Sussex Police to remain for the whole meeting. The Chairman indicated that their presence for the “Update from Outside Organisations” agenda was sufficient. In response Sgt Price stated that this would be acceptable in the future but he welcomed the opportunity to attend the full meeting on this occasion.

- b. Relationship with Stakeholders. David Robinson thought that more could be done to improve relationships between the LHB and its stakeholders and cited some historic instances which, in his opinion, had strained these relationships. He proposed a more independent forum for stakeholder engagement. He was informed that this topic had previously been discussed but, at that time, there did not appear to be the appetite for such an initiative. Ivan Warren stated that there used to be a River Users Group but this fizzled out. The Chairman stated that he would welcome further debate on this issue.
  
- c. Commercial Users Representative. Robert Boyce asked if the LHB were recruiting a Commercial Users Representative following the recent death of Mathew Marchant. He was advised that an advert had been placed on the website. Following a request, the HM agree to circulate the advert to stakeholders. [Posted on the LHB website and attached to these minutes. BJ]
  
- d. S43 Application. Robert Boyce sought a progress report on a S43 Application he had submitted in Aug 17. The HM responded by stating that he had not had sight of it so asked for it to be resubmitted. In response to a supplementary question he advised that the applicant was liable to a fee.

## **ITEM 11 – ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting planned for 3 Apr 18 should be re-scheduled. Following further consideration, **it is now proposed that this should take place on TUE 17 APR 18 at 1800 hrs.**