



## DUCHY *of* CORNWALL

HARBOUR OFFICE, ST. MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY, TR21 0HU

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*Harbour Master: Dale Clark*

### HARBOUR USERS GROUP

### MINUTES OF MEETING 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2017

#### 19:30 MERMAID INN

#### Attending

Dale Clark	St Mary's Harbour (Chair)	DC
Alan Hartwell	St Mary's Harbour	AH
Peter Hicks	Isles of Scilly Steamship Company	PH
Tim Fortey	Independent Boating Representative	TF
Steven Hicks	St Mary's Boatmen's Association/Pilots SH	
Doug Holt	IFCA	DH
Paul Whomersley	IFCA	PWh
Phillip Woodcock	RNLI	PW
Joe Pender	SMBA	JP
Mary Ross	Police	MR
Rafe Ward	ISSCo	RW
Richard Mills	Sailing Centre	RM
Robert Francis	Fishermen's Association	RF

#### Not Attending

Mike Nelhams	Tresco Estate (PFSO)
Keith Buchanan	Quay Tenant
Ian Sibley	Sibleys Fuels
Richard Hand	Haulier
Peter Carss	Local commercial divers
James Stedeford	Pax vessel operator
Dean Whillis	Tresco Estate
Dave McBride	Dive vessel operator
Del Thompson	Minibus pax transfers
Dave Hooper	Tresco boats
Mark Pender	Fishermen's Association
Sue Pritchard	Licencing-Council
David Jackson	Island Partnership

## **1. Apologies**

Terry Perkins  
Gerald Thompson  
Jeremy Phillips  
Jim Poulson  
Eve Pritchard  
John Peacock  
Luke Paulger

## **2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Previous meetings minutes approved

## **3. Matters Arising**

- Chains in steps 4/5-awaiting pad eyes as ordered with Falmouth Divers. Will be fitted as soon as possible
- Pyrotechnics-The Harbour Office will not be taking any lead in the acceptance of TEPS (Time Expired Pyrotechnics) – MR confirms that neither will the Police. RM says it has been five years since the last ‘Amnesty’ and PW suggests creating a stockpile to be disposed of should any dangerous items be washed up on the Islands beaches which require controlled explosion.
- Destination South West-DC confirms that the Harbour Office have withdrawn their annual contribution to DSW as discussed previously but will endeavour to invest that money into promoting the Isles of Scilly as a cruise destination along with Tresco and the Islands’ Partnership.
- Freight Operations on Tresco-PH says there has been no further talk of implementing operating procedures at New Grimsby but he has suggested the installation of railings to segregate freight and passengers as per other off Island quays. RW was not aware of any impending changes.
- Lights above freight shed-DC says these have been fitted. RW confirms they are effective.
- Rings on Porthloo Slip- Five have been fitted on each side.
- Changes to SCY III luggage loading-RW says the container will be open and manned from 1000-1200 and from 1400-1600 daily.

## **4. Incident Reports**

There have been two reported incidents since the last HUG meeting. The berthing of the Gry Maritha in January and a grounding incident involving ‘Pegasus’. There was no injury or damage in either case. DC invites attendees to report all incidents no matter how minor.

## **5. Port Marine Safety Code**

- DC explains that St Mary’s Harbour have been granted powers of General Direction which will come into force on April 6<sup>th</sup>. This will enable the Harbour Office to better control specific and regular vessel movements within the harbour. He assures members that any general direction applied to harbour operations will not be employed without prior consultation with those affected.
- DC says we are operating a new ‘Memorandum of Understanding’ (MOU) with the ISSCo. It clarifies the operational responsibilities of both parties and has been in force for some months. A similar MOU with Sibleys has been sent to them for consideration.
- DC says our Designated Person (DP)-who offers an independent audit of our compliance with the PMSC to the Department for Transport, Mike Sutherland, will look to retire from his position this year. We are currently looking for a new DP.
- Strategic Harbour Plan- DC informed members that this is moving forward, albeit slowly. He explains it is a document to outline the medium duration aims of the harbour in terms of general performance in different areas as well as financial performance. DC hopes to have achieved this by the end of the year.
- Open Port Duty-DC says that he has been approached by persons concerned that the ISSCo have control or priority of certain commercial aspects of the port. DC assures members that as an open port, we remain available at all times for use by any suitable vessel, upon the agreement to pay the required harbour dues.

- Conservancy-DC explains that we will be starting our second five-year plan of seabed surveying to be carried out by 'Shoreline Surveys', who we have used before. He also says that we have also used some equipment from IFCA and may look to utilise this further in the future. He also says that we will not be looking to re-survey the Off-Island quays, these were done as a one off during the first tranche of surveys. PW says IFCA would be pleased to share any information they gather. DC adds that we do share our own information with UKHO and Navionics.
- Local Licencing-PH asks about the current condition of the Council of the Isles of Scilly Local Licence scheme. DC says the Licencing Authority was invited to this meeting but have not attended. He says that although little can be said without a Council representative, he can say that John Peacock has met with the MCA today to discuss various related issues. JP says he has been talking with the Council and has been encouraging them to conclude the issues surround the Licence. DC mentions that the draft MAIB report for the incident involving the pax vessel 'Surprise' is currently out for review by stakeholders and that it does highlight various issues surrounding the local licences. He hopes this will help progress the clarification requested once it is in the public arena.

## 6. General Harbour Information

- Harbour Assist-Our new software system will 'go live' next week after rather a lot of work. It will create ways for customers to view their own accounts and payment histories whilst making all aspects of account management a lot easier for us in the harbour office. In time the system will allow us to manage asset maintenance too and should simplify many of our regimes.
- Pontoon-DC and AH explain an idea to fit a new pontoon along the length of the quay from the current 'pontoon steps' to 'steps 2'. They describe that it will be potentially made of steel sponsons topped with waffle board or other suitable material. It could rest on sacrificial wooden feet or even on steel brackets if keeping it off rocks is required. JP asks about link span access for disabled people. DC responds saying that DDA compliance required a 1 in 12 gradient. AH suggests this will mean an extraordinarily long link span would be required. JP asks if the project would suffer many cutbacks if finances were difficult. DC says if too many cutbacks were required, we probably wouldn't bother. AH mentions we are aware of the condition and lifespan of the current pontoon.
- Falmouth Divers-DC briefly explains that Falmouth Divers have now completed fitting the new fenders in the outer berth. They have been asked to continue work within the harbour to add anodes, secondary steel plating and weep holes to the exposed underwater piles within the outer berth. He says the work is on schedule and is due for completion at the end of April.
- Kier-It has been recognised that a few areas of concrete within the 'Kier' quay extension do not have the specified amount of cement mixed in. As such these areas (within the 'tie in' area between the existing quay and the blockwork) require remedial works to clean out the affected areas and repopulate them with a stronger mix. Both KML and Falmouth Divers are currently bidding for the work. There is a possibility a fender may have to be removed to carry out the repairs.
- ISSCO-RW briefly explains that as well as himself, new staff member Darryl Oakes has joined as a quay hand. Concurrently, the ISSCo are advertising for a quay manager.
- Pilots Course-DC briefly mentions that all three St Mary's Pilots have recently attended a two-day bespoke course to refresh their knowledge on elements of electronic navigation and ECDIS.
- Cruise Ships 2017-DC confirms we are expecting a record breaking 73 ships this coming season but adds that the majority are small in size carrying between 80 and 150 passengers. DC invites comments. No response.
- Harbour Staff-DC says that we have taken on another member of staff on a short contract to cover the season. He also says that John Morley will continue as our 'Passenger Liaison Officer' this year.
- DC invites any question on general harbour information. JP asks if there has been any consideration to the berthing position of the Scillonian III to allow smaller boat access

to steps 4. DC clarifies that dates have been discussed with the Ship's Captain. The steps will be available when the tide drops below 2m and steps one become unusable.

- PH mentions that a ring on St Agnes quay may be starting to pull out. DC says we will investigate.
- JP asks about power to the ticket office. DC say that whilst the original plan was to supply fresh trunking and cabling along the entire length of the quay this does seem to have halted, possibly due to expense.
- JP asks whether the service bollard will be replaced on Old Quay. AH responds saying the newer ones we have fitted in the yacht berths have underperformed and that we are not prepared to buy more of this product. We will however, look to make use of the power supply that is there in other ways. Perhaps by fitting a lockable plug socket.
- DC mentions that we are currently raising the lifting davit by 500mm. RW shows concern over the ability to push heavier loads whilst it is raised on the plinth. DC responds saying that we may look to put a barrier around the concrete plinth to aid safety. We will consider when the davit is refitted.
- PH asks if we are aware of the effect the new concrete base will have on the lead to the adjacent bollard. AH says yes/ DC says we may be looking to fit an aluminium/stainless patch to prevent chaffing ropes. AH suggests this may be an improvement in itself as previously, lines from the Gry Maritha were subject to damage by the davit structure.
- DC says that next week there will be a meeting between the Harbour Office, our Pilots and the ISSCo to discuss the manoeuvring of the Mali Rose within St Mary's Harbour. DC says a similar effort has taken place within Penzance Harbour using Marine Consultant Marico Marine. RW says that despite the delays to entering service and the inevitable teething problems that will occur, the Mali Rose will present a large improvement to the service through the ability to carry larger and more goods.

## 7. Any Other Business

- RM brings up the subject of fuel theft and suggests starting a private messaging group which would allow members to report theft in order to keep a better record of events. MR concurs and suggests we all bolster general security around our own vessels. She also encourages all members to report suspicious behaviour or other types of intelligence.
- RF says he has had a propeller stolen from his vessel 'Sterryn Gwenn' whilst parked at Porthloo boat park. DH says he has had a hydrostatic release taken from the IFCA rib 'Matt Lethbridge' in the same location. DC says this is the first the Harbour Office has heard of these events. Neither was reported to the police.
- TF says he has organised a first aid course to be held over two evenings next month. Any interested parties should contact him.

Meeting ends at 2040

### Actions to be taken:

- Check mooring ring on St Agnes. Repair/replace as necessary
- Talk to Nathan Dean re cabling to ticket office
- Investigate possibility of waterproof plug in Old Quay berth