

Duchy of Cornwall
St Mary's Harbour
Harbour User Group Meeting
27th May 2015

Attendees

Dale Clark	Harbour Master	DC
Alan Hartwell	St Mary's Harbour	AH
Jeremy Phillips	Pilot	JPh
Steve Hicks	SMBA/Pilot	SH
Colin Taylor	Police	CT
Peter Hicks	ISSCo	PH
John Peacock	St Agnes Boating	JP
Jim Poulson	Kier	JIM
James Stedeford	Independent Boating	JS
Adrian Bowser	Kier	AB
Andy Daintree	ISSCo	AD

1. Apologies

Tim Fortey	Independent Boating
Richard Mills	Sailing Centre
Dave Hooper	Tresco Boating
Joe Pender	SMBA

2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting

All approved

3. Matters arising

Luggage from off island boats:

DC brought up the subject of the removal of luggage from off-island boats as discussed previously and noted that nothing seems to have changed since the last meeting. JP advised that he has thought about asking campers to sort their own luggage in a dedicated container, as per the visiting divers on St Martins and is carrying out a period of observation to see if this would work. JS feels there is no problem with the current method although considers the wording used when requesting help is paramount. JP responds saying he has a meeting booked with the ISSCo to arrange methods of letting people know help will be required as early as possible and to request that bags are kept to a manageable size. DC says the Harbour Office presently have no plans to alter the process used for removing luggage from vessels and notifies attendees that Harbour staff are available to help in extreme circumstances.

Local Licencing:

DC mentioned that Steve Watt was not present to comment on the issue of local licensing of boatmen. JP asked where he could get a list of local license holders. DC replied directing JP to Steve Watt

4. Incident Reports

DC said there were three reports since the last meeting as follows:

- a) Vessel Fire- referring to the fire and subsequent sinking of a RIB within the harbour. DC stated that this brought attention to the storage of petrol aboard vessels even though there is no clear reason as to why the fire happened. DC also stated that the vessel was uninsured which could have left the owner, and the Harbour Authority liable. With this in mind the Harbour Authority will be looking to check the insurance details of mooring holders within the coming weeks. DC also pointed out that there were no injuries as a result of the incident.
- b) Damage to the Pegasus (Pilot boat)-DC explained that whilst assisting in the moving of a jack up barge the Pegasus sustained damage to her tube that could not be effectively repaired within the Islands. The vessel was taken to Falmouth for repairs and certain procedures were altered as a result.
- c) Pilot Boarding-DC said that in the moments before a pilot was due to embark a ship (at sea), the Pilot vessel rolled heavily towards the ship it was alongside. It was noted that had a pilot been making his way to the bow of the pilot vessel on this side that a serious injury would have been sustained. Pilots have been reminded of the procedures set out in the 'Pilotage Procedures' document which states they must use the side of the vessel not alongside the ship when making way to or from the bow of the Pilot vessel.

DC invites discussion on these incident reports.

5. JIM gives a short briefing of the current position of the works to extend and improve the harbour. AD requests that Kier do not use the freight area to store goods which are not immediately being used. JIM responds saying that the work is being planned with consideration that this is a working quay. JP asks if the steps on the end of the quay will remain available during the works. JIM says yes as the divers have now relocated to a dive platform. CT asks when the dredge material at Porthloo will be moved from a point of view of any ammunition that may be in it. JIM says a date is yet to be confirmed as it depends on what the material will be used for. Confirmation for this has been delayed by the MMO due to leave within their organisation. It is likely though that 2/3 will be used in the widening project with the remaining 1/3 used for sea defence work at Porthloo. PH asks if it will be moved by road or sea. JIM says both options are being looked at but a final method has yet to be confirmed.

6. General Harbour Update

DC gives a brief update on the following:

- We have had visits from 17 cruise ships this year and have lost 4 (3 due to weather)
- We have had over 4k passengers ashore from these ships and are expecting up to 12k more this season
- The vessel Polmear is currently stationed within the Harbour to assist the SCY III and the Gry Maritha with berthing and unberthing whilst the extension is being built (approx. until August)

- We have issued 23 Local Notice to Mariners so far this year-DC requests these are noted and mentions that other information is available through twitter/facebook and on our notice boards
- We will be replacing the ring at the top of the ladder in the freight berth
- Funding for ladders seems to have come to a halt. 3 ladders should be available along the berthing face by the end of the year
- We will be replacing all the rings on the pontoon-30 are on order-the safety boat has been refitted as a temporary measure until these arrive.
- New wooden fendering will be fitted in the (New) steps as time and tide allows. It is on site and ready to go
- DC said there have been no complaints regarding Porthloo slip of late. SH said he had heard that the Surprise had got stuck on both trips earlier in the year. JP asked if there are any plans to extend it. DC said no but that the Duchy had previously stated that if there were major issues with the slipway then they would be rectified
- Strimming will take place at Porthloo over the coming days to keep the area tidy. DC advises not to leave rubbish in the area where a skip is normally kept. DC also stated problems with the type of rubbish left. Very little of it seems to originate from boats.
- A plan is in the pipeline to tidy and adjust the beach moorings over the coming months. This will need cooperation and consultation with all beach mooring holders and they will be contacted in due course
- DC advises harbour users to be mindful of the restrictions in vehicle traffic between 0945 and 1030 each morning
- The Wi-Fi aerials will be put back on brackets in the coming weeks which should see an improvement in signal strength. We will take lengths to improve the signal should it not do so with relocation of the aerials

JP shows concern over the erection of the balcony during high season. JIM assures members that this work will be done outside busy hours. DC reminds members that the railings at the top of the middle steps have been moved to allow more room in this area. NOTE. Post meeting JIM reported that the working hours had yet to be agreed by Kier

7. Off Island Quays

DC explains that the railings on Higher Town quay are in need of repair and will be done so at the earliest opportunity and urges members to report on any defects they might see or cause. DC also mentions that a revisit to the 'Local Cargo Handlers' is in order to keep PPE levels and Handlers details up to date. PH says that Higher Town quay is usually very messy. DC takes note. JP says that a staple on the end of St Agnes quay is bent. DC agrees to investigate. DC says that there are two fire extinguishers in the waiting room on St Agnes. He explains that only one belongs to the Harbour and the other is showing no charge. JP admits it belongs to him and agrees to either move it or replace it with a correctly charged one. DC asks if gravel is still being washed down St Agnes quay during heavy rain. JP says no.

8. Any Other Business

- DC mentions that the Harbour Authority has donated a set of digital scales for use on the quay davit by fishermen. Also donated is a space to the rear of Sibleys yard for positioning of a second chiller store.

- PH mentions the smell emanating from the area of the davit where bait is loaded on to fishing vessels. AH mentions this had been brought up earlier in the day within the Harbour office and is being addressed.
- SH mentions the lack of lights on mooring buoys fitted by Kier. DC says we have lights and are constantly reminding Kier to fit. A further reminder will follow.
- JP says that with the current works within the Harbour that there is a huge amount of traffic on VHF channel 14. DC says he will remind Kier to use other channels where possible and JIM says that they have moved to a UHF system for internal operations (this does not include pilotage movements).
- DC says that this coming Thursday marks the end of the consultation period for the SHA transfer and that he is hoping to spend some time with Mike Sutherland to plan further for the transfer. DC also mentioned that there has been a lack of local interest in commissioner's posts up to now. DC requests members put forward recommendations if they have them. JP says he is happy to stand.

Meeting was closed at 2015