

## Meeting of the Teignmouth Harbour Consultative Body Bitton House, Teignmouth at 1830 on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023



### **Present:**

Mark Fleming and Kevin Clifton - Pilotage and Marine Services Teignmouth  
Giles Squirrel - Teignmouth Maritime Services  
Pete Stenner - TMS / Teign Fishermen and Waterman Association  
Amy Stenner - Riverside Boat Yard and Teign Boat Hire  
James Crawford - Shaldon Marine Mariners Weigh  
Mark Layton - Teign Dive Centre and River Teign Rowing Club  
Mark Brookfield - Boat Owners Association  
Steve Pocock and James Brett - Teign Corinthian Yacht Club  
Roger Bufton - Shaldon Sailing Club  
Nick Clarence, James Stoye and Chris Clarence - Shaldon Regatta  
Elliot Lovell - South Devon Water Ski Club  
Tony Smith and Aadila Morton - Teignmouth Canoe Club  
Councillor Chris East - Bishopsteignton Parish Council  
Tim Biddlestone - Shaldon Parish Council  
Graeme Smith - Teignbridge District Council and Teign Estuary and Coastal Partnership  
Keith Underhill - Teignmouth Chamber of Trade  
Lisa Edworthy and Rona Boyne - Teignmouth Regatta  
Julian Weyer-Brown - Castle Inn Rowers

### **Teignmouth Harbour Commissioners:**

Sue Astbury, Richard Perks, Vic Weston and Richard Ward

### **Teignmouth Harbour Staff:**

Humphrey Vince (DHM) and Jayne Orchard

### **Apologies:**

Tom Batchelor and Richard Frewin – ABP  
Sue Cox and Charlie Maddocks - Seasports Southwest  
Sgt Robert Harvey and PC Clarke Orchard - Devon & Cornwall Police  
Charlie Woolnough - RNLI  
Sarah Holgate - Teignbridge District Council  
Bill and Karen Hook – Teignmouth and Shaldon Ferry / Teign Salmon Fishers  
Tom Mahon and Ross Pyne - Pike Ward  
Paul Barczok - TFWA

### **Responses not received from:**

Matt and Barry Sessions – Teign Musselmen's Society  
Ricky Cox – Lyme Bay Baits  
River Teign Sea Scouts  
Teignmouth Town Council  
Robert Hughes - Devon Sea Safari  
Mike Bolsworth - Teign Salmon Fishers  
Kate Barczok - River Teign Rowing Club

## **01/23 Welcome and context**

The meeting began at 1845, Sue Astbury Chair of THC opened the meeting and introduced Richard Perks, newly appointed Commissioner who gave a brief introduction.

## **02/23 Rules and procedures draft for agreement.**

The draft Rules and Procedures document was discussed and agreed with the following changes: -

- There will be four meetings/year
- Meetings will start at 19.00
- Up to Two representatives from each member body can participate.
- Each member organisation will have one vote and motions will be carried by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, then the chairman has the casting vote.

In addition: -

- The list of member organisations was reviewed and updated.
- It was agreed to keep the meeting as one group and not try to split leisure and commercial members

The Rules and Procedures document will be amended, posted on the website and circulated with the minutes.

**Action: Richard Perks/Jayne Orchard**

## **03/23 Questions around the room.**

There followed an open forum so members could raise relevant issues. Due to the unstructured nature of the discussion some points have been bundled together and the order topics were discussed may not match the order below.

### **Commissioners General Meetings.**

Roger Bufton asked if we could publicise THC General Meeting Minutes. Sue Astbury said that business decisions and personnel decisions were made in that meeting and they would not be displayed for public view.

**Matter Closed**

### **2021/22 Annual Report.**

Roger Bufton, Chris Clarence and Nick Clarence wanted to raise questions about the draft accounts presented in September 2022. Richard Perks explained that the Statutory Accounts were on the website and that he had already gone through the Accounts questions on a one to one basis with Roger on the previous Sunday. The meeting was asked, by show of hands, who else wanted to discuss last year's annual report. There being only one other interested person, it was decided not to discuss further.

**Matter Closed**

### **Pilots National Pension Fund.**

There were a few questions about the fund. The situation is that the deficit is a liability on our books and will need to be cleared in the agreed timescale. It does not benefit our pilots in any way as it is a shortfall from a legacy scheme (so no one is accruing new benefits). The current indication is that there will be no further payments needed once our share of the deficit is paid. The 20% mooring increase was not done to pay for this.

**Matter Closed**

### **Mooring Fees.**

Several people questioned the logic of the 2023 mooring price increase, especially around the relative income/cost streams relating to the leisure and commercial sides of the business. The Commissioners

proposed to meet with a small subcommittee of Mark Layton, Nick Clarence, Peter Stenner and Mark Brookfield to go through the detail, before reporting back at the next meeting.

**Action: Richard Perks/Sue Astbury, May 2023**

In addition there were a number of comments made around the subject: -

- Richard Perks commented that he didn't think the 20% uplift would be reversed.
- Peter Stenner said that he sits on Dart Consultative Group also and their mooring charges only went up by 5%.
- Nick Clarence said he personally felt (and he was sure he was speaking for all) that there had been a relationship breakdown and THC need to be more open, there was no reasoning for the 20% increase they just have snippets that set their hairs running in the local community as they are kept totalling in the dark. As per the Department of Transport Guidelines we need to improve.
- Peter Stenner asked why the shipping can't pay more as they don't bring anything to the harbour. He said that the Port has the best water and should pay more for it. We need to start charging ABP more otherwise we would lose local people.

### **Harbour Revision Order.**

Chris Clarence was animated about the Harbour Revision Order and how everyone who used the water would have to pay. Sue Astbury said that we were required to review the Harbour Order and this was something the Commission were currently looking at. There had been no talk about charging rowing boats etc. We are the only harbour in this area who do not charge dues for jet skis. This will be consulted upon before submission of any changes.

**Action: Commissioners, ongoing**

### **Mooring Issues.**

It was suggested that THC are not utilising the river as well as they could and we should be able to accommodate 40ft boats on our drying moorings. This would increase capacity and reduce waiting lists for maintained moorings. THC need to move with the time and need to have more moorings laid. Chris Clarence said we need to increase the size of vessel on non-maintained moorings. Vic Weston said it was not necessary as there was no waiting list for non-maintained moorings. James Crawford was concerned about the length of the waiting list for maintained moorings and suggested that locals might be prioritised.

*Since the meeting Richard Perks and Sue Astbury have met with the harbour team to discuss this issue, with the following outcomes: -*

- *There is no waiting list for drying moorings*
- *When a mooring becomes available people are approached in order and there are always some who decline for various reasons so the actual list is shorter. The list is reviewed and refreshed every few years to ensure people still wish to be on it.*
- *Prioritising locals over people who live away is felt to be fraught with difficulties practical and legal.*

There is a question mark around whether demand exists for drying moorings for larger boats, but It may be possible to find a few drying moorings that can accommodate bigger boats, this will be reported back at the next Meeting.

**Action: Richard Perks, May 23**

### **Additional Comments from the floor.**

- Tim Biddlestone said that THC just take their money and do nothing over the Shaldon side, they do not clear up anything, as there have been boulders in the main stream, nobody checks the moorings that side.

- Peter Stenner said that he did not need a pilot boat and tug.
- Mark Fleming said he had been working as a Pilot in Teignmouth for 18 years and was not happy with bashing the Pilots were getting. He said it was very important to keep the shipping running and was very important for Teignmouth. He wanted to make it clear that the PNPf deficit occurred in the 1980s and that the money was not going directly to Kevin Clifton (KC) and himself.
- James Crawford said that shipping was making a fortune and the leisure was in debt.
- Peter Stenner said ABP should be paying more and ABP should have been represented at the meeting.
- (JWB) would like new services now and not in the future.

There being no further questions, the meeting finished at 19.50

**Next meeting was arranged for Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May @ 1900 Bitton House**