

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FOURTH MEETING OF THE BEMBRIDGE HARBOUR  
ADVISORY GROUP - 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**In attendance:** Malcolm Thorpe (MT - BHA - Chairman), Fiona Thorpe (FT - BHA), Gordon Wight (GW - BHA), Tim Woodcock (TW - BBA), Alan Deeming (AD - BAC), Jim Robinson (JR - Boatyards) John Maher (JM - BHYC), Robin Powell (RP - BHUG) & Mike Samuelson (MS - Bembridge RNLI & Minute Secretary).

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - Apologies had been received from Nigel Bennett (NB – HJ Bennett), John Coleman/Ian Thomson (IT - St Helens PC) & Liz White (EW - Bembridge PC). Gemma Wall (GemW - BSC), Jerry Summers (JS - BSC) absent.

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> July 2018) & Matters Arising** - the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. All matters arising are covered elsewhere in the Minutes.

3. **Harbour Report by GW.**

a. **Safety & PMSC Compliance** - all routine safety and PMSC compliance checks have been successfully completed and all is in good order. A BHA internal 6 monthly PMSC audit is about to be carried out.

b. **Channel Navigation and Safety.**

(1) Channel markers and all navigational aids were inspected by Trinity House on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018. No issues of concern were raised by the Inspector who gave credit for the hard work and high standards being maintained. It was not known whether he had previously inspected BSC & BHYC racing marks.

(2) The light beacon on No 1 buoy has been repaired and is now operating as it should.

(3) The 3 Yellow/Black buoys along the edge of the dredge line, on the inner north side of the deep water Duver Marina visitor's pontoon channel are in place and have been favourably reported on by Visitors.

(4) A brand new 5+ metre "Tide Gauge" has been procured and will be fitted to the Tide Gauge Post at the earliest and safest opportunity post the meeting. It will be set to mirror the electronic tide gauge available on the Harbour website. The Trinity House Inspector of Seamarks confirmed he was happy with what was planned. MS offered help if required to fit.

c. **Items of Interest.**

(1) On 24<sup>th</sup> August, RNLB Alfred Albert Williams towed a 29 foot sailing boat (Loch Nagar) with two crew into the harbour and berthed her on the Visitors Pontoon.

(2) Oil Spill Planning is ongoing; the MCA Beach Supervisors training course organised for 14<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 is being very well supported and most of the 55 available slots have been taken up. It is hoped that it will be based at BSC; the first day will be presentations etc and the second day will be more practical with a boom being constructed across the harbour entrance. Access into and out of the Harbour will, however, be possible whilst the boom is in place.

(3) 89 rallies out of the 98 booked in have been looked after so far this year. During the season all BHA and BBS staff have gone beyond the call of duty and have all been praised on hundreds of occasions, both in person and by written communications for their utter dedication to providing first class service to our berth holders and our thousands of visitors. The repeat visitation has been amazing, and the overall feedback has been fantastic.

(4) Winter berthing and care plans are being implemented; mid-harbour buoy moorings have now been removed until March 2019 and the safety orange light beacons have been activated on the mid-harbour pontoons. Winter berthing and storage promotions are still available.

(5) 2018-2019 winter maintenance and improvement schedules are about to commence.

(6) In response to a question from AD, GW confirmed that all the posts in the marina had been checked and only one (on D Pontoon) still required some minor work (which would be done when the tides allowed). The damaged area on the post on E Pontoon had been sheathed.

(7) In response to AD on his observation of people (mostly children) swimming in the harbour, GW advised that although there was a Byelaw that banned swimming in the Harbour and he was aware of two instances during the summer when children were swimming from boats moored on the Duver Pontoon, he had taken the pragmatic decision to allow one (a Dutch family) to go ahead but he had stopped the other after they had swum across the channel with a small inflatable. JR's observation of a 'whirlpool' just inside the entrance was noted.

(8) Ahead of the winter gales, Boat Owners & Club Boatmen were requested to ensure that boats were adequately 'battened down' if ashore and that mooring lines etc had been thoroughly checked if afloat.

(9) **Dredging Plans**. MT advised that:

(a) he was planning on dredging Bembridge Marina in April 2019; costings were being sought and he had not ruled out the possibility of leasing a small dredger to avoid having to remove all pontoons and their services while dredging was in progress. BSC & BHYC requirements would be included.

(b) he was due to discuss dredging Attrill's Point with NB in the near future. It remained a high priority task for Spring 2019. MS's recommendation that the top end of St Helens Groyne be cleared to reduce the movement of sand onto the Point was noted.

(c) MS's observation of the increased navigational danger when NB dredged Bembridge Point opposite St Helens Groyne (and created a flat plateau) was noted.

#### 4. **Events Update/2019 Possible Dates**.

a. FT advised that the three main summer events, Jazz on the Duver, the Family Fun Weekend and Oktoberfest had all been hit by bad weather. The decision to cancel Oktoberfest had been a very difficult one to make, but in the event had definitely been the correct one.

b. **Family Fun Weekend** - numbers had been down but there were still 120 boats booked in and everyone had enjoyed themselves. Bringing the crabbing and the raffle forward to Saturday afternoon had worked well. The GBPBR had been well supported as had the workshop on the Friday evening. Although down on last year's total, around £900 (£120 from GBPBR, £100 from NB, c£120 from Tack-Isle & £570 from the Raffle) had been raised for 'Kissy Puppy'.

#### c. **2019 Events**.

(1) FT advised that the Family Fun Weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Aug) would definitely keep its current format, Jazz on the Quay (22<sup>nd</sup> June) may change in style and Oktoberfest (21<sup>st</sup> September) was being reviewed as an event so late in the season necessitated the hire of an additional marquee, heaters etc and was susceptible to the vagaries of Autumnal weather.

(2) MS advised that because of the Cowes Week dates and tides, BSC's Regatta would also be on Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Aug. Exactly how the Village Regatta on the Saturday would best be integrated had yet to be decided.

d. **Club Events**. FT asked BSC & BHYC to let her have any events that they would like to be publicised to visitors as soon as details had been decided.

5. **MCZ** - MT advised that he met with DEFRA on Mon 16<sup>th</sup> July & subsequently on 30<sup>th</sup> July (with Theresa Coffey – Under Secretary of State at DEFRA). MS confirmed that he had made submissions on behalf of EWCC, BHUG & Bembridge RNLi and AD confirmed he had done the same for BAC and the Angling Trust. The seagrass bed in Priory Bay appeared to be the only area of concern and it was hoped that HIWWT would re-survey before any decisions were finalised. AD made the point that as far as he was aware, the MMO had not introduced any management measures in any of the agreed Tranche 1 & 2 sites.

6. **Trinity House Inspection** - already covered in Paragraph 3b(1).

## 7. Members Reports.

### a. BBA (TW)

(1) failure to deliver the 2018 Guide was obviously a pity, however the BBA is determined to make sure that there is one for 2019. Refunds or rolling-over payments for 2018 advertising was in hand. A number of the Group members urged that publication and circulation needed to be by Easter.

(2) Following a question by RP, TW agreed to check whether BBA members had been circulated with the request back in the early summer by BHUG for support of the Groyne Project.

b. BAC (AD) - a member's boat had been broken into recently and a quantity of fishing equipment had been stolen. 80% of the Angling Club competitions had been cancelled because of the weather.

c. Boatyards (JR) - a good summer generally; bookings for BM's 5 hire RIBs had been good (500 days hire). They were looking at the possibility of longer term leasing arrangements for 2019.

d. BHYC (JM) - it had been a busy & successful summer. The changing rooms were being upgraded early in the New Year (Jan/Feb). The container in the Car Park had been moved. 2019 programming was underway. Adam Silk had recently been appointed as the Boatman/Head of Maintenance. The need to dredge the deep water pontoon had been mentioned already in Paragraph 3c(9)(a).

### e. BHUG (RP)

(1) Advised that the recent meeting with Alastair Tindall (Rosebay) to discuss the overall design had been upbeat & positive. A few refinements were now being made and which would be re-presented in a month. Peter Marsden (IWC) had been at the meeting and continued to be very supportive of a 'repair'.

(2) MT advised that he had yet to consider the request made at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> March for the breakdown of the 2016/17 Harbour Dues income and expenditure.

### f. RNLI (MS)

(1) Although most of August had been quiet, there had been 6 shouts in late August, early September. The medivac from the Independence of the Seas on 31<sup>st</sup> August had been particularly interesting. Guy Willing had been passed out as a Tamar coxswain in early August.

(2) Although initiated and organised by the Isle of Wight Lifeboat Board, Swimsafe (for 7 to 14 year olds) on Sandown Beach had been a great success (1,600 out of 2,000 slots had been taken up and only 5 sessions had had to be cancelled). It was hoped that it would be repeated next year.

## 8. Any Other Business.

a. Seabin - MT confirmed that having looked carefully at their practicality, however there were no plans to install a Seabin in the harbour.

b. Inflatable Dinghy - GW advised that a small inflatable dinghy had been found the previous week; it had yet to be reclaimed.

c. Website - FT advised that the format & content of the Harbour website was due to be reviewed over the winter. AD's previous observation about the Navionics chart in the Navigation section was noted.

d. Rubbish Collection - MT confirmed that a longer term resolution for collecting dog poo on Bembridge Point remained unresolved but was still being pursued.

e. Circulation of BHAG Minutes - MT apologised that he still not yet had the opportunity to review how best to ensure the Minutes are read.

f. **Seabuckthorn** - MS advised that there had been considerable re-growth in the area that had been cleared earlier in the year. Although he had pulled most of it out, another session with a few helpers would be worth setting up. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October (10am) was agreed.

g. **CG66/RYA Safetrx** - AD made the point that even if mobile tracking was not wanted, Safetrx allowed an owner to register their details in a similar way to CG66.

h. **Pleasure Vessels (IPV) Code** - MS advised of the recent MCA initiative to develop a new Code to allow for 'Pleasure Vessels' to be in temporary commercial use at sea for specific purposes (for business purposes (manufacturers, brokers, repairers & surveyors) or as a race support boat). See [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/intended-pleasure-vessel-ipv-code-pleasure-vessel-exemptions](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/intended-pleasure-vessel-ipv-code-pleasure-vessel-exemptions)

10. **Next Meeting** - 09:30 on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December at the Harbour Office.

The meeting ended at 11:40