

Ilfracombe Harbour Community Forum

Minutes of Meeting 10.7.19

1. Lawrence welcomed those present and commented on the many absentees.

2. Apologies: Geoff Fowler, June Williams, Paul Prideaux, John Barbeary, Dudley Jenkins, Dave Welch, Leigh Hanks, Stuart Carpenter, Dawn

All present registered: Lawrence Raybone, Chair; Andrew Bengely, Dive Charters; Daryl Furnston and Chris Tappenden IDTA and Hoteliers; George Carlo-Paat, Harbourmaster; Chris Wallis, RNLI; Bert Gear, Ilfracombe Town Council; Wayne Thomas, Combe Martin Sea Angling Club; Kevin Prideaux, Pub Licensees; Carol Chapple, Lantern Court

3. Minutes and matters arising: Minutes approved and seconded. Wayne to add to matters arising.

5. Harbour Master's update: George thanked Carol for raising £300 for the Wave Shark Raffle.

AONB has granted money to George. Crane Base can now be constructed, The Royal Marines have offered to build the shark cage and presently looking at this. Still looking for more funding.

Security Committee for the harbour – invitations extended to personnel to join, to discuss harbour security and safety.

Cost-saving improvements being looked into. George is off to Bristol to look at improvements including fendering and the use of composites. Ladders for harbour can be composite – possibly only yellow.

Extra bin placed down Quay Road, and one to come for Marine Drive by car park sign.

Proposal for new recycling bins to come.

Improvements to litter collection/ street cleaning/harbour loos' cleanliness. Ken Miles, Chief Exec., doing well. Giving responsibility to different groups involved.

Email from Chris Farris discussed re Watersports Centre. Funding deficit of £700,000. The Cove is a possible and cheaper site option, though Larkstone is still the preferred option. There will need to be a designated watersports area at the harbour, and all the water needs managing. Many points for and against both venues. The deficit will be crucial in the calculation. The ultimate goal is to **have a water sports centre**. There are no major restraints on the grant but final decision is needed soon. All want it to go ahead. Spread the word that all comments on both locations, positive or negative, should go to Chris Farris and/ or George.

There was a discussion as to whether the centre could be used by angling clubs.

4. Wayne from CMSAC presented a Fun Fishing Event to be held in Ilfracombe on 1st September, last day of Sea Ilfracombe. Between 13.00 and 16.00 hours. Would there be a lot of boat movement? It is low water. George stated that there were no 'big' ships due in but also warned that small commercial boats would be in full swing and to ask closer to the date.

6. AOB

MV Rotterdam arrives for the day, 9th August. Events4Ilfracombe in charge of the day's organisation. On returning from tours, passengers will be dropped in Ropery Road or by Pip & Jims, so have to walk past harbour businesses.

3 herring gull attacks in Ilfracombe this week. One boy slightly injured. Comment that visitors don't really appreciate the slogan 'don't feed the Gulls'. Is there a high enough profile?

Holiday makers have complained to TIC about the commercial boat operators' tactics. TIC to tell visitors that if they feel pressured by operators, they should contact the harbourmaster. One answer is to get rid of kiosk 3 so visitors aren't bombarded from both sides and can walk on the "other" side.

NOTE: After following up on the above it has transpired that the 'complaint' was in fact a question from a holiday maker who had not actually experienced this at Ilfracombe as he had not been to the Harbour due to having been 'bombarded by ticket sellers' at other Harbours. Once the PSPO was explained he went on to book tickets with the TIC and then came down to the Harbour. He did not return to the TIC so no further follow up as to his experience on the Harbour can be added.

Harbour toilets still not up to standard in cleanliness. Would local businesses be willing to sponsor an extra cleaning time during the summer months?

Lawrence apologised for not actioning a point from the last meeting re cigarette butts. There are not enough receptacles. Bert showed a picture of a template logo around a drain saying "the beach starts here". Couldn't local businesses provide sand buckets for the stubs?

Lawrence is offering his Chairmanship to AN Other as his time as chair is up – by autumn please!

Deck chairs on the beach are legal and person running them is keeping the beach clean.

Meeting closed 19.45.