

Ilfracombe Harbour Community Forum

Minutes of Meeting 22 January 2020 Started at 18:30

1. Lawrence welcomed those present. Thanked Kevin for the use of his Skittle Alley again.
2. Apologies: Andrew Bengey, RNLI; Leigh Hanks, RNLI; Stuart Carpenter, Passenger Boats; Daryl Furnston, IDTA; Chris Tappendon, IDTA; Maggs Ashton, Ilfracombe Sub Aqua Club; SA Ilfracombe Sub Aqua Club; Wayne Thomas, Ilf & Combe Martin Sea Angling Club; R Thompson Ilf Gig Club
3. PRESENT. Lawrence Raybone, Chair; Dudley Jenkins, Vice Chair, Secretary and TIC; Georgna Carlo-Paat, Harbour Master; Chris Wallis, Leigh Hanks RNLI; Paul Crabb and Bert Gear, Ilfracombe Town Council; Kevin Prideaux, Pub Licensees; Carol Chapple, Lantern Court; June Williams, Ilfracombe Yacht Club; John Barbeary, Charter Boats; Steve Pugsley, Paul Prideaux Harbour Shop Traders; Dave Hutchings, Paul Hutchings Ilfracombe Sea Safari; Dave Wellch, Y Sail, Steve Ashton + 1 Ilf SAC.
4. Minutes and matters arising: Minutes approved CW and seconded CC.

There were no matters arising.

5. Harbour Master's update: The Royal Marines Association and harbour works for the Wave Shark will be completed by the end of January. 02 sim card still required.

Boats in last weekend in March (Friday 27th, 28th and 29th)

Two visiting Cruise ships, May and August. (MV Veendam & MV Rotterdam)

Biosphere works: Start Feb 9th and finish March 27th.

Proposed long term cost-saving Harbour improvements by the use of black composites hand rails and ladders for harbour with photo celled top step step to illuminate the ladders at night. Old Quay Head and Cove fenders. South Pier to get 1 extra landing stages and one at Quay Head steps to relieve congestion at low tides. The works to the Pier fenders and the opening of 1 extra landing are going ahead. Fishing Association alongside HM are working together to put in a bid to the MMO for funding to carry on with the works to OQH and the inner harbour infrastructure.

NDC have approved new HD CCTV linked to Barnstaple with a mini hub in the harbour. This will still take time to implement.

Herring Gulls: A fresh quote for the introduction of Hawks to deter the nesting season early this year was received too late to organise Ilfracombe Town Council funding for 2020

Does anybody want free sand for their sand bags.

6. Any Other Business. Two items:

6a. Proposal By Round Table (RT) to run a two day event for Bird Man instead of the one day:

James Sanders – Elliot, Leo Cooper, Tom Martin – Jeffery and Paul Crabb all presented the following on behalf of the RT: Bird Man was a 1 day event which has run for 23 years and raises funds for local charities. On a good year it has raised £10k and on a bad (very wet) year it raised just over 70 pence after costs!. The Forum supports the work that the RT put in for the existing 1 day event as, in it's current format, it is regarded as generally positive for Harbour business. It generates further profile for Ilfracombe.

The RT want to expand the event to 2 days to cut overall costs and avoid the disaster caused by very wet weather. Either Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday was proposed. There was a very long and convoluted discussion on this with some support all around the forum and some dissent. Subject to final Round Table proposal. More detail required from RT

Questions raise were: Did it have to be August so late in the year? It was suggested that better weather was to be had (generally) in June or July.

(This could clash with school times as there are no half term holidays in these months and there is a reluctance for parents to take children out of school. This Note added after the meeting by the Secretary)

A vote was taken with some stakeholders supporting the existing 1 day event in its current format and an extra (late part) day on the Friday. There remains some concern for accomodating Lundy logistics and sailings. A more conclusive vote should be available to the Harbour Board on receipt of a more detailed proposal submitted to the forum by The Round Table.

The Round Table to take a non-financial business plan to the next Harbour Board meeting.

6b. New all inclusive Dive Club business Reg 2597:

Steve Trebble with his partner Suzanne explained about the new dive business they have set up to be all inclusive for mobility impaired, groups such as Help the Heroes and those with learning difficulties. The group is fully compliant with all diving qualifications and does not propose to dive within the harbour sailing areas but would like to, if possible use the pool area just beyond Verity (this is for discussion with the Harbour Master.)

The proposal was met with the general approval of the Forum.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm with no fixed date set for the next meeting.

It is proposed that the date of next meeting is: Tuesday 31st March 2020 at 6:30pm in the Sandpiper.