

Portwrinkle Harbour Users Group

Notes from the first Annual Meeting held on Friday 29 August 2015 at 18:30

Present: Bob Bushrod; Chris Kennedy; Don Pengelly; Fernley Furze; Gary Baker; John Isaac; Malcolm Biles; Mike Wilkinson; Patrick Kelly; Roo Taylor; Steve Becker

Apologies: Rick Baker

1 Welcome

Chris welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that this was the first meeting of the Harbour Users Group (HUG) following devolution of the dinghy park to the Parish Council (PC).

2 Explanation of devolution

Chris explained that as part of the business case for the PC to keep the public toilets open, they had taken over the running of the car park and the administration of the dinghy park from Cornwall Council (CC). CC agreed to allow the PC to keep the harbour dues in lieu of the annual cost (circa £1000) to inspect the 2 lifebelts at Portwrinkle which the PC then took on. This helped to achieve the funding required to make the case for the public toilets but any income over and above this can be used for developments in the dinghy park/harbour.

CC is still responsible for the upkeep of the dinghy park and the harbour and the PC Clerk (Linda Coles) now keeps the dinghy park lists up to date and issues the licences. The Honorary Harbour Master (Bob Bushrod) is still in place but now reports into the PC with any issues requiring attention in order that he is covered under the PC public liability insurance. Linda then refers harbour issues on to CC where appropriate for action. Bob still has autonomy over harbour usage and responsibility for the allocation of dinghy park spaces (which may occasionally require some spaces to be reallocated).

3 Opportunities and Threats from this change

John outlined the following opportunities:

- To question/change what we have and rearrange
- To open up the dinghy park for more people to use
- To be more involved in the upkeep and more importantly the development of the harbour
- To focus on a sustainable future for the harbour

and threats:

- Pressure on LA funding – CC indicating “withdrawal” from maintaining the harbour (as per Environment Agency)
- Future storm damage to the harbour - CC had no funding to repair the harbour wall when damaged in Feb 2014

John then raised two issues for the HUG to consider:

- Increasing the number of dinghy park users (and income) through installation of a dinghy rack and a kayak rack;
- Empty spaces or boats rarely used when there was currently a waiting list of circa 12/13

4 Coastal Revival Fund

John explained that the PC has asked him to prepare a bid for the Coastal Revival Fund which is a fund of circa £3m nationally requesting bids for less than £50,000 to help bring about revival of coastal areas, such as harbours. The deadline for this bid is **7th September** when it needs to be circulated in advance of the PC meeting on the 14th where it will need to be approved.

The bid will be for the supply and installation of a 15 slot dinghy rack and 6 slot kayak rack to enable more users to use the dinghy park. The involvement and support of HUG is important as this demonstrates the group coming together to support the harbour reviving the old fishing community ethos for the harbour. This would bring more business to the village – community shop, hotel, café and car park and help to develop an income stream to move towards independence of CC support. Other benefits suggested by the group were the value of recreation in supporting healthy life styles and community involvement.

Roo advised that he knew of several locals who would be interested in paying for the kayak rack spaces at circa £20 per annum. Rick Baker had emailed John to say that he was in favour of the dinghy and kayak racks with a preference to locals and that finance should be made available for the upkeep of the harbour, e.g. the annual digger hire (currently paid for by CC). Gary suggested that a community kayak(s) could be made available for hire with the rack in place. There was a discussion over supervision and knowledge required and it was agreed that this would be better managed through a kayak club – which would be very welcome.

Following this discussion, the group supported the bid in principle and asked to see the draft when produced. Chris reminded everyone of the deadline (7 September).

5 AoB and Feedback

Patrick asked if the group thought motorised vehicles to help launch boats would be a good idea and the group unanimously agreed that it would not be compatible with other harbour users – especially children. It was noted that jet-skis were not allowed for the same safety issues and this decision had not changed.

Patrick also suggested that the mooring fees may have to be raised to help with future maintenance.

John suggested a working party at the beginning of the year (around Easter) to help clear stones from the harbour before the boats go down as currently this is falling to him alone. Chris suggested that this may be a good time to hold the annual meeting.

Fernley asked if anything could be done about the level of sand in the harbour to make it easier to get boats up the beach. It was agreed by the group that it would be useful to add the cost of a hydraulic winch into the bid. John asked for any information on suitable winches to be sent to him asap.

Gary asked if the harbour entrance would need to be altered in any way to comply with insurance requirements. Most boat owners confirmed that they had insurance for their boats – which is important in terms of any potential injury caused through the use of the boat.

Chris confirmed that the dinghy and kayak racks (and winch) would become PC assets and as such would be added to the PC insurance.

Don asked about insurance if anyone in a working party was injured e.g. strimming grass, moving rocks. Chris advised that this would not be covered through the PC insurance and would be an individual's risk.

Actions from the meeting:

- John to include the winch in the coastal revival fund bid and circulate to the group for comment prior to the 7th September
- All – any info on winches to John asap
- All – return any outstanding signed licences to Linda
- Jenny to circulate notes of meeting to HUG and potential date for next meeting and harbour clean-up
- Chris/Linda to set up HUG space on PC website for notes – use Forum for further ideas