

Maldon Harbour Improvement Commissioners

Minutes of the meeting of the Commissioners held at the Maldon Little Ship Club, Maldon on Thursday, 3 October 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: I Hiner (Vice Chairman) N Cardy
 G Courtney John Dines
 A Wiseman

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Jim Dines, M Gibson, A Fluker, N Harrison, J Howorth, D Patient. A resignation had been received from D Leggett stating that he had enjoyed his time as a Commissioner, but the travel time from his new base is too much. I Hiner would be in contact to thank him for his service.

20 DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTEREST

There were none, other than those declared during the meeting.

21 MINUTES – MEETINGS 15 AUGUST 2019

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15 August 2019 were formally received. It was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 15 August 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

22 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 14 d) – N Cardy requested that identification of the ownership of Northey Island be brought up at the next Maldon District Council Liaison meeting.

Minute 18 a) – G Courtney enquired if the webcam software disc was available. I Hiner confirmed that the webcams were being prepared for operation.

23 CLERK'S REPORT

Item 1. Department for Transport "Port Good Governance Guidance"
The April 2018 update had been checked and there were no changes that impacted on MHIC.

Item 2. Ownership at Northey Island
An email had been sent to Matt Wilson, MDC, formally requesting clarification of ownership at Northey Island. There had been no reply.

Item 3. Meeting dates for 2020
MHIC meeting dates had been pencilled in on the Maldon Little Ship Club diary and were awaiting approval from the Committee.

The Blackwater Sailing Club had confirmed Tuesday, 17 March 2020 for the Annual Joint River Safety meeting which would be in the Cadet Room due to the rebuild at the Club.

Item 4. RNLI

The Clerk would contact the RNLI to invite a representative to the Joint River Safety meeting.

Item 5. MHIC Annual Public Meeting 2020

It was established that a mid-October date would be appropriate.

Item 6. Circulation list for the Port Marine Safety Code

Review and update of the list was in progress.

24 TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer had reported that there had been very little movement on the account.

25 TO CONSIDER THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF N CARDY WHOSE PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT ENDS ON 20 OCTOBER 2019

It was found that the meeting was not sufficiently quorate to carry out the re-appointment. This re-appointment to be carried over to the next Commissioners' meeting.

There was discussion of the skill set required by the Commissioners including scientific and legal knowledge, and the involvement of younger members. The Clerk would check rules on minimum age.

26 BUOY REPORT

Checks were carried out on 3 September 2019 by I Hiner, N Harrison and John Dines, and on 14 September 2019.

Harbour Limit Starboard Buoy had been reported upturned and had been righted by C Swann. There was no mechanical damage. Bird scarers were straightened and barnacles removed from the base.

Harbour Limit Port Buoy was cleaned, barnacles scraped from base. Letter T degrading. Old type light fitted – operational.

Nos 9, 11, 13, 16, 17 were checked and found satisfactory.

No 10 cleaned and barnacles scraped off.

No 12 cleaned and weed scraped off. The numbers were degrading.

No 14 had heavy bird fouling, cleaned, anti-bird rods and cable ties fitted. Rechecked on 14 September 2019 and was remaining clean.

No 15 light cleaned, old type of light fitted – operational.

No 19 cleaned including light, wire bird scarer added to light bracket. Rechecked 14 September 2019, light remained clean.

All other defects as previously reported.

The Buoy Condition Report spreadsheet had been updated and published on the website.

27 FEEDBACK FROM THE MHIC ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2019

There had been a good attendance at the meeting. There had been discussion regarding the post of the River Bailiff and the title Harbour Master had been mentioned. It was confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of MHIC that the job title would remain River Bailiff.

There had also been discussion and concerns expressed regarding jet skis, speeding and patrols. Commissioners would raise this at the next MDC Liaison meeting.

C Swann had pointed out the lack of speed limit signs. I Hiner had followed up. The River Bailiff would co-operate with MHIC in installing a speed limit sign on the Herring Point Crane base. John Dines suggested the speed limit sign should also warn against creating a major wash. N Cardy commented that there were no signs behind Northey Island to enforce a limit of 8 knots. I Hiner would follow up with the River Bailiff. G Courtney asked if signs could be fixed on the buoys.

28 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Item a) Web cams – I Hiner would liaise with Jim Dines.

Item b) Dredging – N Cardy reported that dredging has started again. Some more loads would be taken off the Quay and some from the gravel off Downs Road Boatyard.

Item c) Jet skis – A Wiseman reported that there had been at least ten jet skis parked on the mooring at the Quay. The drivers went into the pub and afterwards went off very fast creating a big wash and swinging about.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm.

I Hiner (Vice Chairman), Chairman of the Meeting