

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY NINTH MEETING OF THE BEMBRIDGE HARBOUR  
ADVISORY GROUP - 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**In attendance:** Malcolm Thorpe (MT - BHA - Chairman), Fiona Thorpe (FT - BHA), Gordon Wight (GW - BHA), Jim Robinson (JR - Boatyards), Liz White (EW - Bembridge PC), Alan Deeming (AD - BAC), Nigel Bennett (NB - HJ Bennett), John Maher (JM - BHYC), Robin Powell (RP - BHUG), Michael Toulmin (GMT - BHUG) & Mike Samuelson (MS - Bembridge RNLI & Minute Secretary).

1. **Welcome & Apologies** - apologies had been received from T Woodcock (BBA) & Ian Thomson (St Helens PC). Absentee: Jerry Summers/Gemma Wall (BSC)

2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting (27<sup>th</sup> June 2019 & Matters Arising)** - subject to the following amendment to the first sentence in Paragraph 5 of the previous Minutes "... no management actions had yet been brought in anchoring in the seagrass beds in any of the MCZs, .....", the minutes were approved. All matters arising are covered elsewhere in the Minutes.

3. **Harbour Report by GW.**

a. **Safety & PMSC Compliance** - during June, July & August to date, all routine safety and PMSC compliance checks were completed and it can be reported that all is in good order.

b. **Channel Navigation and Safety** - an inspection of Local Aids to Navigation (i.e the channel buoys) was carried out by Trinity House on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. One recommendation was made re the lettering on No 14 buoy. This has been carried out and forms part of the ongoing maintenance project for all buoys. JM confirmed that BHYC racing marks were also inspected that day.

c. **Items of Interest.**

(1) **Family Fun Weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August)** - had been a great success (see also Paragraph 5a).

(2) **Rallies** - there had been 39 organised rallies since the last meeting with 6 rallies still to arrive.

(3) **Almera** - a 57 foot Princess Motor yacht was towed into the harbour by Bembridge RNLI's ALB (RNLB *Alfred Albert Williams*) late afternoon 25<sup>th</sup> August having run aground on the Bembridge Ledge at 17 knots and suffered extensive damage to her stern gear. She was subsequently towed back to the Hamble by a tug a few days later.

(4) **Joint Safety Operations Meeting** - GW & RC(S) BHYC had a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August to 'risk assess' planned Club and Harbour activity. It was agreed that it would take place monthly from now on. The next meeting is on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. BSC are welcome to attend when activity levels make it appropriate.

(5) **Fort Walk** - following this year's "happening" on 3<sup>rd</sup> August when it was estimated that 4,500 people had participated and Bembridge RNLI's D-Class rescued three people in difficulty after they had fallen into a hole in the channel, John Keyworth (LOM, Bembridge RNLI) subsequently facilitated a very useful meeting of all 'interested parties' (in particular the Emergency Services) to discuss future 'happenings'. The recommendations that emerged were put into practice on 30<sup>th</sup> August when it was estimated that 850 people participated, albeit Island Roads got the "No Parking" restrictions in the wrong place. The lowest tide next August is Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 - 0.6m 19:17.

(6) **PMSC Internal Audit** - the next internal audit will be on 5<sup>th</sup> October.

d. **BHA Seasonal Staff Members** - Charlie, Tom & Harry White, Gill Bamber & Nick Moore complete their summer contracts on or before 29<sup>th</sup> September. They have all done an outstanding job and some will hopefully be returning next summer. This leaves three permanent Harbour staff over the winter.

e. **SIFCA Netting Byelaw** - at a meeting the day before, SIFCA were advised that harbour byelaws already banned netting within the harbour and therefore fully supported the proposed amendment to include the harbour in the changes to the SIFCA byelaw that is out for consultation.

4. **BHUG** - RP advised that this would be his last meeting as Chairman of BHUG as he was handing over to GMT on 1<sup>st</sup> October. However, he would not be 'retiring' completely as he had been elected to be the first President of BHUG. MT, on behalf of BHAG, thanked RP for his wise council throughout the time he had been a member of BHAG. His presence at the next meeting to support GMT as Chairman of

BHUG would be very welcome.

## 5. Events Update.

- a. **Family Fun Weekend (2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> August)** - FT reported that the weekend had been a great success and thanked GW for making sure everything ran smoothly in MT & FT's absence. Dorian Campbell (RC(H)) & JS were thanked for looking after the beach sports. As was BHYC for looking after the GBPBR. The evening 'harbour party' had gone extremely well with a Harbour sponsored fireworks display at the end and had been much enjoyed by everyone who attended. The date for 2020 is yet to be decided.
- b. **The Bembridge Harbour Charity Ball (21<sup>st</sup> September)** held at BHYC was a great event and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. BHYC were thanked for all their support as was of course GW who had been the principal organiser. Approximately £2,154.00 (of which £1,655.00 came from the raffle & auction) had been raised for KissyPuppy.
- c. **2019 Fundraising for KissyPuppy** - FT advised that approximately £6,700.00 had been raised throughout 2019 for KissyPuppy (the Harbour's nominated charity).

## 6. Harbour Planning Update

- a. MT advised that contrary to incorrect comments appearing on BHT's website, planning permission for the Harbour development had not been approved. Although, as mentioned at the last meeting, it had been hoped that the s106 Agreement would be signed off in early July, this has still not yet happened because of yet further submissions to the LPA by BHT. For instance, regarding one of BHT's submissions, the LPA have accepted MT's explanation reflecting the colouring of some buildings; MT confirmed that a s106 Agreement is a planning document in which it is not appropriate to include property related aspects.
- b. GW expressed great concern about the current state of the toilet and shower facilities which he described as 'knackered' and that unless they were replaced, it could mean that numbers of visitors would have to be capped next summer. He pointed out that the cost of the sewerage disposal this year was in excess of £15,000 (similar to 2018). He also repeated comments at the last BHAG meeting that the on-going 'show us your books' campaign was extremely demoralizing & intimidating to him and his staff.

## 7. Bembridge Harbour Trust.

- a. Having expressed sympathy with the views expressed by GW, MS said that he thought that the campaign would be terminated if the BHIC accounts were made more transparent. MT responded to say that in his and FT's view, this would simply lead to yet more questions and more detail being demanded. MT again confirmed that the Harbour is legally managed in conformity with the Harbour Act and that BHT had also confirmed this was legally correct. In response to another suggestion from MS about releasing the accounts that are submitted annually to DfT & IWC, MT confirmed that these were already available as they were the same ones that are submitted to Companies House on an annual basis.
- b. There was then considerable discussion as to how to make some progress between MT/FT and BHT and find a way forward. Having heard from MT that whilst neither he nor FT were prepared to talk to the current Chairman of BHT, Jeremy Gully, based on advice from BHAG members present, a meeting with other BHT trustees might be considered. All present were in agreement.
- c. Following a recent meeting with RP and Michael MacInnes (MM) regarding the groyne, MT and FT had asked MM to consider acting as a liaison between the Harbour and BHT notwithstanding GMT's efforts to find a way forwards. MM had responded that he wanted to concentrate solely on the groyne project.
- d. Subject to confirmation later (*Afternote: confirmed*), MT & FT confirmed their agreement to meet with some BHT trustees as per Annex A. It was agreed unanimously that GMT, EW and JM on behalf of BHAG should approach BHT to see whether they would agree to an initial meeting.

## 8. Dredging.

- a. **Channel Maintenance** - NB advised that the recent bad weather had limited what could be achieved but that he continued to dig away at the inner harbour entrance area and when he could, the

area opposite the Baywatch Cafe.

b. **Inner Harbour Dredging.**

(1) MT advised that he was currently negotiating to hire a suitable hopper barge to support 'United One'. As soon as this was achieved the plan was to dredge the BSC's BODA pool, followed by the BBS channel and the Duver Marina's North/South pontoon. On completion they would move onto Bembridge Marina. No such requests had been received from BHYC. He confirmed that Berth holders will be kept informed of progress and will be allocated spaces on the Visitors pontoon during the dredging. Although originally it had been envisaged that 'United One' would not be available in the Harbour in October, this had now changed. MT also confirmed that BHA now had a 10 year 'dumping licence' from the MMO at the Nab Tower.

(2) AD advised that recent concern covered by the County Press about the damage caused to the local fishing areas by the depositing of 5m tons of silt in the Nab Spoil Ground over recent years was groundless.

9. **Harbour Water Taxis** - MT advised that a third water taxi (identical to the other two) had recently been purchased to improve the summer service for customers; currently being re-fitted and would be ready for next season.

10. **Members Reports.**

a. **Bembridge RNLi (MS)**

(1) Fifteen shouts since the last meeting.

(2) In addition to the 'Almera' on 25<sup>th</sup> August (Paragraph 3c(3) there had been two 'interesting' shouts. One involving a medivac from Clipper Venture 21 on 4<sup>th</sup> August and the other involving 'possibly someone in trouble' at the eastern end of Sandown Bay who turned out to be a nudist sunbathing.

(3) Swimsafe 2019 (an IOW Lifeboat Board initiative) that was run on Sandown Beach was not quite as successful as last year due to more days being weathered off and a couple of schools cancelling at the last moment. That said over 1,300 children participated.

b. **BHUG (RP)**

(1) As a result of MT placing the project into 'limbo' early in August, the Committee had agreed that there would be no further action or expenditure on the Groyne Project which is obviously disappointing as BHUG is very keen to get the project restored.

(2) MT confirmed his continuing commitment to the groyne project, however he was not prepared to change this current status while BHT continued with their objections to the redevelopment plans and suggested that there needed to be reciprocal support from BHT. RP stated that he felt that BHUG should not be expected to influence BHT but appreciated that this was not MT's view.

(3) FT explained how the continuing negative, demoralizing and extremely damaging campaign has, and is, seriously impacting the Harbour business and staff members who feel intimidated. It is expected that seasonal staff recruitment in 2020 will be negatively affected. As had been explained at the recent meeting with RP and MM, the fact that several members of the BHUG committee and groyne sub-committee are the very same individuals who are actively and very visibly supporting the Show us your Books campaign, made it impossible to separate BHUG from it, especially with two BHT trustees (one being the Chair of BHT) sitting on the BHUG groyne sub-committee.

(4) Whilst appreciating that now was probably not the time to progress it, RP felt very strongly that BHT should be invited back to being represented on BHAG.

(5) Disappointingly, no progress had yet been made by BHUG on setting up a meeting to discuss the sluice gates with the EA (Ian Tripp).

c. **BHYC (JM)**

(1) Following their recent AGM the Club currently does not have a Commodore or Vice-Commodore. This arose when the Vice-Commodore designate did not receive the necessary number of votes and Steve Lymm, who had agreed to be caretaker Commodore following the

decision by Linda Briant to stand down, withdrew his nomination. Polly Schafer is the new RC(Sailing).

(2) As already reported the Bembridge Harbour Charity Ball had been a great success; GW's efforts & organisation had been fantastic.

(3) The Club fully supported the Joint Ops meetings already mentioned in Paragraph 3c(4).

(4) BHYC was joining in this year's "Beer & Buses" (12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> October) so do please come and support.

(5) MT's offer to come and address the Management Committee on Harbour dredging and sailing within the Harbour will be progressed once the new team are in post.

d. **Local Boatyards (JR)** - although unable to speak for other boatyards, they had had a good season with plenty of hire RIB activity. There will be 6 RIBs available for hire next year. In response to a question by MT, JR advised that while they were still building in-house RIBs up to 6.5 meter for local sales and hire use, they have stopped trying to sell the bigger models nationally/internationally, they just can't compete with the corporate brands. After BHYC purchased a new 75hp engine for Frantic earlier in the year, JR stripped the boat and started afresh, fitted the engine, new steering, wiring, fuel hoses, and fitted a new Garmin GPS plotter and ICOM vhf DSC with antenna all FOC. JR is also sponsoring Frantic for the next five years by servicing the engine and antifouling yearly. Additionally JR has made a similar value donation of a new 4 mtr RIB to SVYC this season. Both clubs have been working hard to get local kids and adults afloat/sailing and JR wanted to do his bit. As mentioned in early discussions, 90% of JR's business is now 'outside' the Harbour.

e. **HJ Bennett (NB)** - nothing further to report to Paragraph 7a. In response to a question about the apparent increase in erosion on the harbour side of the 'Compound Wall', NB acknowledged that the rate had increased in recent years and that although not a 'show stopper' a refurbished groyne may well increase the rate.

f. **BAC (AD)** - nothing of significance. In response to a suggestion that some of the BAC members had commented on the harbour occasionally deploying a 'speed gun' at the harbour entrance, MT confirmed that although the harbour byelaw was 8 knots, they sought to encourage an advised maximum of 6 knots with emphasis on the amount of wash produced.

g. **Bembridge PC (EW)** - Beach cleans had been well supported; despite difficulties over the last year, Bembridge had not only been Countryfile's 'Village of the Year' but is shortlisted as the Hampshire & IoW 'Best Kept Village'. (*Afternote: Bembridge won the Open Spaces Award for the Wave Sculpture/Mural and War Memorial Gardens and were runners up in the Best Community Initiative Award for the Dragons Den event. Additionally, the village won the 'Best Kept War Memorial' and was the runner up in the 'Best Kept Extra Large Village'.*) As a result of the recent High Street auction, and subject to contract, the old council office building had now been sold.

h. **BHA (GW)** - Winter promotions at Annex B.

i. **BHA (MT)**

(1) **St Helens PC Update** - see Annex C.

(2) **Intimidation** - following Mr Watson (a Houseboat owner and supporter of the 'Show us your Books' campaign) admitting using intimidating language to a member of the Harbour staff the police decided to bring a court action against him. IW Magistrates' Court found a 'Not Guilty' decision on a point of law. MT explained that BHA will always support their staff 100% in the event of any similar incidents. This was agreed by all present.

(3) **Harbour Dues** - a number of boat owners who had not yet paid their harbour dues (payment date 01<sup>st</sup> April 2019) and were being chased up. Further action will be taken if they fail to pay.

11. **Any Other Business**.

a. **RSPB Closure of the Footpath from the Houseboat Car Park to the Old Railway Line & Extension of the Railway Line Footpath to the South of Bembridge Boatyard, BMS etc** - MT advised that both matters remained on-going.

- b. **Seabuckthorn on Bembridge Point** - FT advised that her meeting with Richard Jessel to discuss his offer to help create a second path through the sea buckthorn, remained on her list of things to do. MS advised that if/when the weather allowed there would need to be another bonfire to burn up the summer growth that he had pulled up.
  - c. **Secrets of the Solent** - MS advised that the next 'wider-stakeholder' meeting was on 2<sup>nd</sup> October after the Solent Forum meeting at Northwood House. Thanks to Dean Lyle, Cowes Enterprise College were now involved in the project.
  - d. **MCZ - Bembridge** - nothing new to report.
12. **Next Meeting** - 09:30 on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November at the Harbour Office.

The meeting ended at 11:50.

Annex:

- A. MT/FT note to BHAG of 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- B. BBS Winter Deals.
- C. St Helens PC Report.

**MT's E-MAIL TO BHAG OF 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I refer to the BHAG meeting this morning and the discussion relating to BHT.

As we informed the meeting, we recently asked Michael MacInnes, with his background knowledge of, and involvement with BHT, to consider our suggestion that he act as a liaison between BHT and ourselves; in response Michael has confirmed that he wants to concentrate his energies solely towards the groyne project.

The BHAG committee unanimously encouraged Fiona and myself to continue efforts to create an opportunity for dialogue between BHT and ourselves.

Having now discussed this, we agree with the nominations proposed by BHAG that Liz White, John Maher and Michael Toulmin are asked to meet with a quorum of BHT trustees to seek their views on having an initial discussion with us to explore matters relating to the Bembridge Point Groyne and the S106 Planning Agreement.

Kind regards,

Malcolm



## Bembridge Harbour 2019-2020 Promotions



### Duver Pontoon Walk-ashore Winter Berthing

1st October 2019 (up to 6 months) ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020:

Boats up to 8 m LOA	<b>£400.00</b>
Boats 8 m up to 12 m LOA	<b>£450.00</b>
Boats 12 m to 16 m LOA	<b>£500.00</b>

### Bembridge Boat Storage Winter Promotions

1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 (up to 6 months) ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

#### Winter Bonus services Pack 1

**External Storage** for boats up to **8m** LOA (*Larger boats can also be accommodated - POA*)

Lift out	
Wash down	
External storage	
Re-launch	<b>£750.00 inclusive</b>

#### Winter Bonus services Pack 2

**Internal storage** for boats up to **6m** LOA (*Larger boats can also be accommodated - POA*)

Lift out	
Wash down	
Internal storage	
Re-launch	<b>£750.00 inclusive</b>

#### "Rent a Rack"

In order to allow DIY services to be carried out whilst in storage the following offer applies:

Lift from storage area to external working rack	
7-day DIY service area provided	
Electricity, water and waste service can be made available	
Car parking adjacent to work rack available	<b>£160.00 inclusive</b>
Return lift to storage area	<i>additional days charged at £11.00 per day</i>

**Lift, scrub and re-launch** **£135.00 inclusive**

**Terms & Conditions apply - please see the BHA and BBS websites**  
[bembridgeharbour.co.uk](http://bembridgeharbour.co.uk)    [bembridgeboatstorage.co.uk](http://bembridgeboatstorage.co.uk)

**ST HELENS PC - UDATE (by John Coleman)**

1. In respect of the Duver Beach project, the Parish has taken on the ownership of the toilet facility and subsequently carried out an extensive refurbishment, planned maintenance is scheduled for the beginning of 2020 plus further enhancement of the facility including a baby changing unit. The beach grading /cleaning programme has been widely commented on by residents/visitor who have welcomed the introduction, this year's programme will cease at the end of September. We have worked with Island Roads to install larger refuse units, these being double the size of the previous units plus separate compartments for recycled/ general waste, this initiative was complemented by an increased cycle of waste removal during the season. We have ordered a Defib unit for the Duver which will hopefully be installed within the next few weeks; training is being organised for next spring however we are also arranging a training session for the Village School which we believe is an exciting initiative. All of the above has been achieved in Partnership with Paul & Richie (Baywatch) and Rory, Hughie, Mick & Family at Old Mill Caravan site. If anyone is interested we are already looking for partners for next year!
2. Station Road toilet facility remains an issue, the IWCC own the building but cannot sell or lease it to the Parish Council because it is built on common land, they are seeking to deregulate the facility, this has to be done via Defra, we are not holding our breath because we believe they are involved at the moment with something called Brexit. So the decision at the September PC meeting was to formal hand the facility back to the IWCC until they can clarify the situation. To bring the building up to the required standard would cost the Parish in the region of £20k+ not something we can contemplate doing given that we do not have ownership of the facility.
3. We are also working with the Village School and the History Society on a Heritage Trail, this is well under way with a draft "walk" already in place, further progress will be made in the coming months, this will be complimented by a project on the War Graves next year to celebrate a 100 years since the remembrance arch was placed in the Church yard. We believe it is imperative the children of the village are involved in these projects, to say they are enthusiastic would be an understatement.(maybe it was the ice cream at the end of the first walk)
4. The village greens now have in place a full maintenance programme this has been agreed with the Sports Association and our contractors, as you are probably aware the Parish manages the greens on behalf of the IWCC, and its great to see them being utilised by not only the Cricket team but also this season two football teams plus of course individual Village events.
5. Working with the Community Payback team (Probation Service) we have carried out several projects so far this year which include the refurbishment of the Benches on the Greens (34), Painting of the Memorial Shelter and Tidying up the grounds around the Station Road toilets. Ongoing projects include the refurbishment of the Benches/Tables on Old Church green, the tidying up of the Map Garden and a drainage project for the Station Road Bus stop area.
6. All the above projects are being led by individual Councillors who apart from me are; Joost Spit, Victoria Duckett, and Kevin Tutton ably assisted by our Clerk Richard Priest. if anyone is interested we are currently looking to elect a Parish Councillor, the closing date for nominations is 27th September so you would have to be quick, details are available from the Returning officer @ County Hall.
7. Probably enough to keep you going, if you have any questions after your meeting relevant to the work of the PC please get back to me, one question from my side would the Bembridge Xmas lighting expert be able to give us some advice on our tree this year. Not been too successful in previous years so open to any help that's out there, enjoy your meeting.