

Lyme Regis Harbour Consultative Group (LRHCG) Meeting 15th May 2025 Lyme Regis Sailing Club 18:00		
Present		
David Brown	(DB)	Non-Commercial Moorings Rep
Ed Carter	(EC)	Harbours Manager – Weymouth Harbour Master
Peter Fosh	(PF)	Non-Commercial Moorings Sub
Sam Harding	(SHA)	Assistant Harbour Master
Sally Holman	(SH)	Sailing Club Rep
Rob King	(RK)	Boatmen/Charters Rep
Catherine Kinnersley	(CK)	Gig Club Sub
Jo Law	(JL)	Sea School Rep
Nick Marks	(NM)	RNLI Rep (Chair)
Becky McGowan	(BM)	Harbour Admin Officer – Note Taker
Peter Oconnell	(PO)	Non-Boating Water Activities Sub
Will Reed	(WR)	Harbour Traders Sub
James Radcliffe	(JR)	Harbour Master
Steve Taylor	(ST)	Harbour Assistant

1. Welcome & introductions	Action
NM – Welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2. Apologies	
Lee Roper - Power Boat Club Rep Karen D Diggins - Non-Boating Water Activities Rep Mat Stiles - Commercial Fisherman Rep Aide Best – Maritime Police Cllr Rob Hughes - Dorset Council Harbours Advisory Committee Chair Max Gollop – Harbour Traders Rep	
3. Chair nominations	
No written nominations for Chair received NM – Thanked the group members and the Harbour staff for their continued support and advice throughout his role as Chair. SH – Gave thanks to NM on behalf of the group for his effort throughout his time as Chair and emphasised the great work he had put in towards Phase 5, DC projects and the seaweed farm. EC – Referred to the draft amended terms of reference circulated prior to the meeting, JR Chaired the rest of the meeting.	
4. Minutes of the previous meeting	
NM – Update the meeting date. Phase 5 NM and SH held a meeting with the Town Council (TC) to try and progress the structural repairs. Concerns were also raised in writing and verbally to Harbour Advisory Committee (HAC) and in writing to Edward Morello the Liberal Democrat MP for West Dorset. confirmation was received from a DC Director that all possible is being done by officers to find funding. Dog fouling EC - The Cobb is included in the Public Spaced Protection Order (PSPO) The PSPO enables to Council to undertake enforcement against issues such as dog fouling by enforcement officers like the dog wardens. EC – To seek advice around Harbour staff being able to undertake enforcement and look at this within the HRO. WR – Does this includes urination? EC – No, only faecal matter. EC - Signage will be reviewed.	BM
5. Representatives and Substitutes	

Steve Postles is now in position of Boatmen/Charters Sub.	
6. Terms of Reference	
The draft amended terms of reference circulated prior to the meeting included, 4.3 In the event that a Chairman is not appointed at the time of a scheduled Consultative Group meeting, and no Vice-Chairman is available to act in their place, the relevant Harbour Master may assume the role of acting Chair for the purpose of facilitating the meeting. While the Harbour Master is acting as Chair, no formal votes on recommendations or decisions may take place. This arrangement is intended to enable the meeting to proceed in a functional capacity, ensuring information sharing and discussion. 4.4 If no Chairman is appointed after two consecutive meetings where the Harbour Master has acted as Chair, the matter shall be referred to the Harbours Advisory Committee for further direction, including the possibility of nominating a suitable temporary Chair from within the Group or taking other appropriate steps to restore full functionality to the Group. RK – Suggested the Elected representative for DC would be best to take on this role? EC – Will seek advice from Democratic Services. NM- Who will be presenting the minutes at the next HAC? JR – The minutes will be uploaded for viewing and comment but there won't be a member to present them. EC – Asked if there were any comments around section 8 of the amended Terms of reference? -All agreed.	EC
7. Marine Police update & Harbour Watch	
There have been no reported marine crimes in Lyme Regis area. The DNA tagging event held recently at the Sailing Club went well. 28 items were tagged. SH – The event was in very short notice, the officers were given some extra resources which enabled them to attend however only 1 code marker was used. The data is held with the Sailing Club. SH – To follow up on coding marking solutions. DB – Expressed that he had invited this event on two separate occasions but received no response. It was suggested to hold another event when vessels are out of the water. JR - Will try to arrange this, along with Harbour Watch.	SH JR
8. Harbours Advisory Committee Chair's updates	
Two new non-elected members of the HAC have been appointed, both have great previous experience, and the HAC is now at full strength. Appointed members are, Mark Roberts and Lee Hardy.	
9. Harbour Masters update	
The mooring occupancy is currently around 82%. There is a steady flow of new mooring holders coming in from invitation from the waiting list. North wall timber piles are completed. Depth gauge boards at the end of pier and north wall are completed, they are set at chart datum. Please be aware that there could be some silting around the base of the wall and the depth can vary, ½ m now and ¾ m around pontoons. Dredging, the habitat risk assessment has been done, we are now waiting decision from Natural England. The Water injection here is only a trial will not be a full dredge as we currently have no licence. If this goes well, we will then put in a full application for a licence. This new process if approved will save around £60,000 to £80,000 NM – Added that the TC have not funded their historical contribution this year. JR – Added that the FCERN team are not receiving funding from the Environment Agency this year either. DC are looking at other options.	

NM – Without the sand replenishment, this will go over time. JR – Yes but will be replaced with pebbles. RK – The sand there now is integral for the under-pinning support; things could go wrong. EC – The new method will only move sand 50m to 100m away then resettle, JR - The beach works, sand replenishment will be dealt with by the engineers. SH – Asked if a letter can be written to TC to express the groups concerns? JR – will pass over to engineers. PF – Suggested the placement of a timber wall. JR – Engineers are looking into that option. EC – The FCERN team are currently in discussion and drawing up concept costs. The new JCB arrived Friday 9th May, we will be able to begin boat lifting within 1 week. Our new services are available, providing petrol and diesel. NM – Was there a big investment in this? JR - No, we were given a trailer, and a vehicle is on order. PO – This is suitable for larger vessels, with the standing charge and fuels costs, could you store fuel for smaller vessel owners to take away on purchase? JR – We can currently store 330litrs, we can look at the price structure to accommodate. SH – Are there any electrical charging facilities? EC – Not now, it is in our longer-term plan. Flares, our facility is now open to collect unwanted or out of date flares. DB – Can the poster can be amended to include the cost of new flares? JR – The cost varies, ordering in bulk will make it cheaper, let us know if you would like them.	JR										
10.Phase 5 update											
FCERM Engineering update, Currently, there is a funding shortfall to deliver the scheme, but the project team are progressing discussions with potential funders with the intent to close the funding gap. The project team has recently completed a further value engineering design as part of the pre-construction stage. In addition, this stage has completed formal pre-application service engagement with Historic England and Natural England and provided updated construction cost estimates with specialist Contractor advice. The project team are continuing discussions with Historic England for further pre-application advice, and we are awaiting feedback, prior to procuring consultancy services for detailed design. Construction is anticipated to commence Autumn 2026. It is our intention to hold public engagement and awareness sessions later in the year. These events will also explore how and when commercial users in particular access the Cobb and how access can be reasonably maintained – this information can hopefully help find the least disruptive solution to facilitating construction. <table border="1" data-bbox="229 1599 1182 1809"> <thead> <tr> <th>Task</th><th>Programme</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Stakeholder engagement</td><td>Ongoing</td></tr> <tr> <td>Design Development</td><td>Present – Summer 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Permits and Licences determination</td><td>Present – Spring 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Proposed Construction start</td><td>Autumn 2026</td></tr> </tbody> </table> NM – Expressed that there are serious concerns around this and there are many people frustrated and angry. RK – Suggested extending a meeting invitation with Historic England and the group. JR – Will try and arrange this	Task	Programme	Stakeholder engagement	Ongoing	Design Development	Present – Summer 2025	Permits and Licences determination	Present – Spring 2026	Proposed Construction start	Autumn 2026	JR
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11. User representatives report											
Non-Commercial Moorings –There are concerns from mooring holders regarding the lateness of dredging. 2 vessels have already been grounded.											

RNLI - Events planned for the year are the annual Blessing of the Boats service at 3pm on Sunday 28th May, a concert by the Taunton Deane Male Voice Choir in aid of the RNLI at 7pm on Sunday 1 June in the Marine Theatre, and Lifeboat Week from Saturday 26th July until Friday 1st August.

LRSC – Concerns were raised around dredging; this is limiting movements.

Concerns were raised around launching from the slipway, there are very large vessels being launched and some near misses have been reported. The larger vessels are becoming a safety issue.

Could we ask for a little more consideration around the times of youth groups launching.

The club's operational policy has been sent to HM office.

JR – Will investigate this to see what we can implement.

BBA – The next launch will be on 26th June at 8:30am, there are 5 vessels, we are impressed by the expertise of the students with this production.

Boatman/Charters – A Facebook post appeared showing the concerns of the dolphin and harassment, the post also advised any interactions are to be reported to the HM. The dolphin is very friendly and is playful, it approaches vessels for fun and there has been no harassment witnessed.

JR – Intentional interaction isn't allowed, the MMO is currently looking into this.

JR – On behalf of the MMO, Workshop: Protecting Lyme Regis' Dolphin visitor and avoid wildlife offences will be held,

Thursday 22nd May 17:00-19:00

Fishing College, The Cobb, Lyme Regis, DT7 3JJ

There is some confusion on charging arrangements for overnights and on the corner aka dead man's corner. Historically this area was free, it is creating friction between the charter and fishing boats on the weekends due to vessels being left there.

JR – Charges are from the crane down and charged over winter also.

Other issues will be raised to the group.

Non-Boating Water Activities - PADDLE Out protest Surfers against Sewage 17th May 12 noon on the Sandy beach - paddle boards, kayaks or paddlers

Lyme Splash Water Polo Championships to be held on 9/10th August

Lyme Splash Lyme Regis to Charmouth Sea Swim Challenge Sept 14th. 10am start - safety boat volunteers are welcome. If interested, please contact Karen at info@lyme-splash.com

The Gig Club have their Regatta on Saturday with gigs arriving from 7.30am and racing from 9.30am from the pontoons. Beverley Glock has asked that paddle boarder stay well away from the harbour and rock armour as well as the cardinal for safety.

There are concerns about the male dolphin at the cardinal buoy being harassed by paddleboarders, kayakers and people in RIBs. The matter was reported to the Harbour Master and Police as a wildlife crime. LRHCG representatives are asked that if they see anything please report it quoting RWC-691-25-5555-C.

Sea School – 27/28/29/30 May

Senior Instructor course booked for 4 days from 30th June.

Operational weeks commencing 7th/14th/21st/28th July and in August for 4th August and 26/27/28 and 29th August. We are not running whilst the Sailing Club holds the Firefly Nationals.

LRGC – Masters regatta will be held Saturday 17th May.

Non-Commercial Mooring Holders – Concerns were raised re speeding just past the Deal Slow sign. Can we notify the offender.

JR – Please report this to the office at the time.

Poor state of cobb structure, in general, holes or jammed doors on the sheds etc have been reported. JR – Issues have been reported to property services. A refurb of buildings will be going ahead this year.	
12. Q&A's	
NM – HRO? JR – This is still sat at the top of the pile.	
13. AOB	
Next meeting provisionally booked for 6 th November 2025	
Meeting concluded 19:30	