

MINUTES of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee held virtually via Zoom on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm.

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**Present:** Cllrs. Bell, Lankester and St Joseph  
Non-Council Members: Mr A Eastham and Mr B Parmenter

**In the Chair:** Cllr Plater

**Clerk:** Michelle Curtis

**Also Present:** 3 Members of the Public

**1. Chairman**

Cllr Plater nominated Cllr St Joseph to be Chairman of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee. Unanimously agreed. Cllr St Joseph was **declared** to be Chairman of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

It was agreed Cllr Plater would chair the current meeting with Cllr St Joseph taking the chair at the next meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee.

**2. Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Lankester was nominated to be Vice-Chairman of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee. Unanimously agreed. Cllr Lankester was **declared** to be Vice-Chairman of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**3. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence, all Members were present.

**4. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Lankester disclosed a personal interest, as he moors his boat on Tollesbury Saltings.

Mr Parmenter disclosed a personal interest, as he is the Secretary for Tollesbury Fairways Committee and is a member of Tollesbury Sailing Club and Tollesbury Cruising Club.

Mr Eastham disclosed a personal interest, as he is a member of Tollesbury Sailing Club and Tollesbury Cruising Club. Mr Eastham works for Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust and is a Director for Tollesbury Saltings. Mr Eastham is also on the Committee for Tollesbury Sailing Club.

**5. Public Forum**

A member of the public raised the following items:

- Dredging - It is noted that dredging is on the agenda for discussion. The resident felt that any funds from the precept should not be used to pay for dredging.
- Rules of the Hard - The Rules for the use of the Hard need to be reviewed and suggested that launching of watercraft should be no bigger than 16ft with a limit

of 50hp. The demographic of users has changed and this needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

- **Signage** - The 'NO PARKING' signage needs to be reinstated. The resident was aware that the Clerk had purchased the signs. A large sign should also be displayed showing maximum size and speed of watercraft allowed to use the Hard.
- **Buoys** – The resident advised that the dinghy mooring buoys had come adrift and suggested relocating them to provide more space around the Hard.

In response to the resident, the Chairman advised that in relation to dredging, it is an ongoing issue and it would be maintenance dredging. The Committee can review the Rules for the use of the Hard. The chains for the dinghy mooring buoys have been purchased.

**Action:** Mr Parmenter, Mr Eastham and the resident agreed to install the new chains.

## 6. Minutes

**Resolved:** that subject to a minor amendment the Minutes of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 be approved as a true record of the Meeting.

Unanimously agreed. The Chairman to sign the minutes as soon as possible.

## 7. Use of the Public Hard

The letter from Tollesbury Sailing Club regarding the use of the Public Hard was received and noted.

Cllr Plater advised that Tollesbury Sailing Club were concerned about the multiuse of the area and had suggested designated areas with the Hard being for the launch and recovery of boats on trailers and Tolfish Hump an area for SUP Board and Kayak launching. The designation would ensure the safety of all users.

The proposal from Tollesbury Sailing Club was discussed at length but no conclusions were drawn at this time.

An additional 5 letters (Appendix A) were received from users of the waterfront expressing concern that vessels were speeding. The sign indicating the speed of 4 knots had disappeared.

Mr Parmenter reported that he had contacted the River Bailiffs at Maldon District Council who advised that they are waiting for the delivery of 2 jet-skis which will be operated by the Police and they are keen to enforce. He understands there is an issue and wants to assist.

**Resolved:** to propose to the Full Council to reinstate the 4 knot advisory signage for Woodrolfe Creek.

## **8. Woodrolfe Hard**

### **8.1 Update on gabion project (adjacent dock)**

Cllr St Joseph reported that since the last meeting there had been no response from Haf Morris concerning the application for funding.

Based on discussions on item 7, it was suggested that the project for the Hard is re- assessed.

Mr Parmenter referred to a photograph of the Hard in the 1960s and it was suggested a design similar might be a more cost-effective way of improving the area. It would be low maintenance but we would need to bear in mind the water flow was different in the 1960s and there could be siltation problems. Mr Parmenter suggested a topographical survey of the area.

Cllr Plater advised that County Council Durham is offering Parishes around the District to apply to his Councillors Fund. Cllr Durham has a sum of £10,000 to distribute by the end of September to projects.

**Action:** Clerk to write to express an interest in the fund for the improvement works to the Hard.

**Action:** Committee to put together costings for a revised project.

### **8.2 Update on Tollesbury Harbour Project**

Maintenance dredging was discussed in length by the Committee. Overall, it was felt that the last maintenance dredge was a success.

It was suggested that the area of Halyard Spitway could be considered for the next maintenance dredging works.

**Action:** it was agreed to explore the works, install withes to mark the channel and obtain data levels, with a view to proposing to the Full Council any maintenance dredge to be carried out before April 2021.

The resident reiterated that any funds for these works should not be spent from the Parish Council precept.

### **8.3 Current usage issues**

It was reported that there are parked vehicles along the hard are adding to the congestion around the area.

**Action:** to propose to the Full Council that the parking patrols carried out by the Community Protection Officers (CPOs) are increased at weekends.

There has been an increase in the number of users (swimming, kayaking, SUPS) of the Hard area since the closure of Woodup Pool. The Chairman advised the pool will be closed until mid-August at least.

### **8.4 Navigational Speed Limit Signage**

Discussed under agenda item 7.

**9. Other Issues**

Mr Eastham reported that young people are throwing mud at the boats. This was considered anti-social behaviour.

**Action:** Clerk to ask the CPOs to include on their patrols.

Mr Parmenter suggested that Woodup Pool was filled in the evening after 10 pm and emptied by 5 am the following day would assist with flushing the Hard. Mr Parmenter stated that if permission was granted, he had some volunteers who would be willing to assist with the filling and emptying process.

Cllr Plater granted permission for the pool to be filled and emptied.

**Action:** Mr Parmenter to liaise with FACT.

**Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard and Marine Assets Committee will be held at the beginning of September. Clerk to arrange a convenient date with Members.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.27 pm.

Signed.....

Date:.....