

MINUTES of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee meeting held in the Pavilion on Monday, 13th November 2023, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr. Clare, Plater
Non-Council Members: Mr B Parmenter

In the Chair: Cllr St Joseph

Clerk: Michelle Curtis

1. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Cllr Goldie and Mr A Eastham.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Clare disclosed a personal interest, as he owns a boat in The Marina.

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.

3. Public Forum

There were no members of the public present.

4. Minutes

Resolved: The Minutes of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee Meeting held on 4th September 2023 be approved as a true record of the meeting. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. Improvement Works

Improvement works are pending.

The Clerk reported that as of 19th September 2023, there were 49 dinghies moored on the Hard, with only 22 paying their fees. A notice was put on dinghies not displaying the current registration sticker, advising them that unregistered dinghies would be removed and destroyed. Some dinghy owners removed their dinghies from the Hard, and 5 paid their fees.

Ben advised there are currently more than 27 dinghies on the Hard.

Action: A further inspection is to be carried out, and conversation given to disposing of an unlicensed dinghy and publicising it to encourage owners to comply.

6. Earmarked Funds

Woodrolfe Hard Earmarked Funds

The Clerk reported the balance in the Woodrolfe Hard Earmarked Fund is £2,052.96, of which £1,000 is committed expenditure, which was approved at the Full Council meeting on 19th September 2023.

The Committee agreed that approx. £1,500 would be required to continue the improvement works (this includes the £1,000 approved expenditure).

Balance of Woodrolfe Hard EMR as at 31.10.23	£2,052.96
Less £1,500 Hard improvement works (this includes the Committee £1,000 spend)	-£1,500.00
Remaining balance	£552.96

The Committee would propose to the Full Council to transfer £500 from the Woodrolfe Hard Earmarked Fund to the Community Support/Minor Projects Earmarked Fund

Tollesbury Harbour Earmarked Fund

The Clerk reported that the balance in the Tollesbury Harbour Earmarked Fund is £250. This money was obtained via a donation from the late ex-councillor Roger Lankester.

The Committee agreed that they would like to use the money for a coir rope enclosure (similar to the attached picture (Appendix A)). A proposal would be submitted to the Full Council for consideration.

The Committee discussed a future project idea of a storyboard, in robustly sustainable materials, describing key features of the natural environment, informing the public, and building awareness of biodiversity and conservation measures. Possible locations (with landowners' consent) would be on the Marina mound near the memorial benches at Woodup Pool and/or near Tollesbury Sailing Club. The board/s would be sponsored by local organisations with a marine environment interest and could include a small inscription to the late Cllr Roger Lankester.

Action: Contact to be made with the EWT and RSPB to find out where they purchase their robust and sustainable information boards.

Action: Chairman and Vice-Chairman to collaborate on the storyboard.

7. Precept 2024/25

The Committee considered the funds that would be required for the general running of Woodrolfe Hard in the next financial year.

Rent (Lease from Crown Estate £572.33 and FACT - £10)	£585
Misc.	£350

The Committee discussed the mooring fees for 2024/25 and would propose to the Finance Committee that the fees be increased by a minimum of inflation.

8. Other Issues

'Washdown of the Hard' in Spring 2024 is planned and will be communicated to volunteers in due course.

The Clerk reported that the large 4-knot sign had been displayed, but some felt it was not big enough. In 2022, the Committee considered buoys with a speed sign. The Committee agreed this would be a good option, and the cost of the buoys should be paid for by a consortium of the stakeholders.

Action: Clerk will obtain a quotation for 3 buoys.

Cllr Plater advised that he had recently spoken to Peter Riches from The Crown Estate. Peter had indicated that he was concerned about the Fairways Committee as he could not see the Fairways Committee as a legal entity. Peter asked if the Parish Council would be able to assist as they are a recognised body.

Ben advised that he was aware of the concerns expressed by The Crown Estate and had recently attended (with others) a meeting with a Solicitor who had suggested some ideas on how to deal sustainably with the management and associated public liabilities of the relationship between the Fairways Committee, Atkinsons and other interested parties, including users of the moorings and navigable waterways. He and his colleagues would consider this further.

Cllr Plater said the Parish Council would be happy to help if assistance was required.

Action: Ben to report back

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee will be held on Monday 5th February 2024.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.51pm

Signed..... Date:.....