

Those present:

Cllr Clare (Chair)
Cllr Goldie
Cllr Plater
Cllr St Joseph
Andrew Eastham – Non-voting member
Michelle Curtis (Parish Clerk/RFO)
1 members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Ben Parmenter.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Goldie disclosed a personal interest as follows:

- Owner of The Marina.

Andrew Eastham declared a personal interest as follows:

- Membership of Tollesbury Sailing Club
- Mr Eastham works for Fellowship Afloat Charitable Trust (FACT) and is a director for Tollesbury Saltings.

The Chair disclosed a personal interest as follows:

- He moors a boat in Tollesbury Marina.

3. Public Forum

The Clerk advised that there were no requests from residents to address the Parish Council.

4. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee Meeting held on 18th June 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed Cllr Goldie, seconded Cllr Plater. Unanimously agreed by those who attended.

5. Finance – Earmarked Reserves

The Committee reviewed the finances and Earmarked Reserves.

The Committee would propose to rename the Tollesbury Harbour Project Earmarked Reserve to:
Harbour Project – R Lankester

6. Operational Update

Cllr Goldie reported that some people had parked boats where they shouldn't. They were refurbishing the boats to sell them on the marketplace. She advised that she had reported this to Ben Parmenter, who intervened.

Action: To be monitored.

It was reported that the hovercraft reported at the June meeting has now moved, but the pontoon is still there.

Hard improvements – The wash-ups have been successful. The moorings have not been moved, and the dinghies are sometimes lying across the road, obstructing the launching area. It was suggested that combining an additional buoy, moving the existing buoys, and possibly laying more gravel could help improve access.
Action: This will be discussed further with Ben.

Andrew Eastham reported that youth continue to climb on the salt marsh, which is causing damage.
Action: In the new season, the Clerk will publish on the Parish Council’s social media, reinforcing that the salt marsh is private property.

7. Fairways Committee/Crown Estates

The Clerk advised that Ben Parmenter had informed her that the Fairways had received a quotation from their solicitor and is now in the process of setting up a Community Interest Company (CIC).

8. Licensing – Woodrolfe Hard/Tolfish Hump

The Chair advised that the new sticker procedure for the payment of fees was a success. During a recent visit, the Chair noted that all the moored dinghies displayed the 2024 sticker. It was agreed to continue issuing an annual sticker going forward.

9. Signage

The new signage regarding jet skis appears to be a success, as there has been a reduction in the number of jet skis launched from The Hard.

The Committee agreed that no other signage was required at this time.

10. Speed Limit Buoyage

The Chair reported that it had previously been agreed, in principle, that additional signage regarding the speed limit would be useful at both ends of Woodrolfe Creek. The Chair advised that some options had been considered for mooring buoys displaying the speed limit; option 1 was to make buoys similar to the buoys in Brightlingsea, or option 2 was to purchase buoys from JFC Marina and attach speed limit signs to them.

Cllr Goldie advised that Tollesbury Marina would happily supply the chain and clumps and install the new speed buoys.

The Committee considered the options and agreed to propose to the Full Council to purchase 2 buoys from JFC Marina and 4 signs to be attached to the buoys advising of the 4-knot speed limit. The works would cost in the region of £250, and funds were available in the Woodrolfe Hard Misc budget, the Woodrolfe Hard Earmarked Reserve.

11. Precept 2025/26

The Committee considered the funds required for Woodrolfe Hard's general running in the next financial year.

Rent (Lease from Crown Estate £572.33 and FACT - £11)	£585
Misc.	£350

The Committee discussed the mooring fees for 2025/26 and would propose to the Finance Committee that the fees be increased by a minimum of inflation rounded up.

12. Other Matters

It was agreed to invite a member of the Marine Group of Tollesbury Climate Partnership to the next Woodrolfe Hard Committee to give an update on their work.

It was agreed to review the Rules and Regulations for Woodrolfe Hard at the next committee meeting.

Tollesbury Sailing Club (TSC) – The Committee discussed TSC not paying fees for launching. This arrangement had been in place for several years. It was previously agreed between the Parish Council and TSC that no launching fees would be charged to TSC, and in return, TSC would help with maintenance, i.e., the washdown of the Hard. This arrangement worked well, and it did not need to change.

The Committee agreed to organise a ‘Hard Washdown’ before the start of the new season. It was agreed to hold the working party on Saturday 8th February 2025.

Action: Clerk to notify Tollesbury Sailing Club to see if they will be able to help on the day.

13. Dates of the Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Woodrolfe Hard Committee will be held on:
Monday 3rd February 2024 – 7.00pm – Pavilion

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.06pm.