

Minutes of the Meeting of the **BOAT PARK COMMITTEE** held at the **Town Hall** on **Friday, 8th December 2006** at **9:30 a.m.**

Present: -
Councillor C R Bright - Chairman

Councillor Mrs C Bartlett
Councillor M Hadley
Councillor Mrs G A Marsh
Councillor M Pratt
Councillor M Tyrer

Also in attendance: -

Mr R Johnson Boat Park Users Group Representative
Mr A Lander Swanage Fishermen's Association

Dr M Ayres Assistant Town Clerk
Mr G Brookes Operations Manager
Mr M Leach Boat Park Attendant
Mrs A Holmes Tourist Information Manager
(until 11.00 a.m.)

1) **Appointment of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Bartlett, seconded by Councillor Hadley and AGREED UNANIMOUSLY:

That Councillor Bright be appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

Councillor Bright assumed the Chair.

2) **Apologies**

Apologies for his inability to attend the Meeting were received from Councillor Audley.

3) **Review of Minutes of Meeting held on 15th September 2006**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2006 were noted as agreed.

4) **Matters of Report from Meeting 15th September 2006**

i) **Installation of entry barrier system**

The Chairman invited members of the Committee to review the proposed installation of a barrier system, previously discussed at a special meeting held on 21st April 2005, in order to clarify whether this should remain on the Council's Capital Programme.

Attention was drawn to the fact that boat park users had been informed that a barrier would be installed to provide added security, and thereby possibly reducing the cost of their insurance cover. It was also noted that the barrier would prevent the boat park being used as a turning circle.

The benefit to the Council in terms of preventing out-of-hours launching was questioned and the importance of increased CCTV coverage was stressed.

After further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Tyrer and seconded by Councillor Pratt :

That the barrier entry system should remain on the Capital Programme, subject to the availability of funds and approval by the full Council.

Upon being put to the meeting FIVE members voted IN FAVOUR and ONE AGAINST, whereupon the proposition was declared CARRIED.

ii) Allocation of Fishermen's Huts

The Assistant Town Clerk provided an update on the number of agreements returned and it was agreed that he would follow up those that remain outstanding.

The possibility of a hut remaining vacant due to a lack of applicants that fulfil the Council's criteria was highlighted. The Council's policy not to allow any fisherman or boat operator to hold two huts was discussed.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Mrs Marsh:

That the Council should maximise its income from the letting of the fishermen's huts.

Upon being put to the meeting FIVE members voted IN FAVOUR and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the proposition was declared CARRIED.

5) Boat Park Grid Fees 2007/08

Councillor Mrs Marsh declared a personal interest in this matter under the Model Code of Conduct by reason of a family connection to occupiers of boat grids. She remained in the meeting during the discussion but did not vote on, or propose, or second any of the motions recorded under this item.

Further to the Annual Estimates Meeting, held on 4th December 2006, the Chairman reported that the Committee had been invited to comment on the setting of fees and charges relevant for 2007/08.

The Committee reviewed the charges relating to the Boat Park grid fees and the Chairman noted a number of anomalies. For example, the current weekly rate for the 13 feet grids was 42% of the fee for the summer season, whereas for 22 feet grids it was 27%. The ratio between the weekly and daily rates also varied widely. It was agreed that this situation should be addressed over coming years.

Further to Minute 3) of the Boat Park Committee meeting held on 9th December 2005 the possibility of introducing a discounted rate for residents was discussed. However, on further consideration it was stated that existing rates were reasonable and it was AGREED:

That no action be taken to introduce a discounted rate for residents.

After lengthy deliberation and in accordance with views expressed by the Boat Park Users Group Representative it was proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bartlett and RESOLVED:

That the Boat Park grid fees for 2007/08 should be as follows:-

		New Charges (Incl. VAT)	New Charges (Excl. VAT)
Up to 13 feet	Summer	£217.38	£185.00
	Weekly	£ 90.00	£ 76.60
	Winter	£ 94.00	£ 80.00
Up to 22 feet	Summer	£440.63	£375.00
	Weekly	£140.00	£119.15
	Winter	£176.25	£150.00
Up to 29 feet	Summer	£616.88	£525.00
	Weekly	£155.00	£131.91
	Winter	£258.50	£220.00
Daily Launch Fees (Boats and Jet Skis)		£ 25.00	£ 21.28
Daily Launch Fees (Boats and Jet Skis – Removal of Trailer)		£ 20.00	£ 17.02

Consideration was then given to the existing discount rates. It was proposed by Councillor Tyrer, seconded by Councillor Pratt and RESOLVED:

That the existing discount rate of 10% on an annual ticket if purchased before April 30th be retained.

It was proposed by Councillor Pratt and seconded by Councillor Mrs Bartlett:

That the 20% discount to fishermen be removed from the scale of charges.

An AMENDMENT was proposed by Councillor Tyrer:

That the 20% discount be retained.

The amendment failed to secure a seconder.

The original proposition was put to the meeting. FIVE members voted IN FAVOUR and there was ONE ABSTENTION, whereupon the proposition was declared CARRIED.

It was noted that the decision to withdraw the discount should not alter the payments made by the Boat Operator/Fisherman who stores his pontoons in the Boat Park over the winter season.

The Tourist Information Centre Manager left the meeting at this point.

Further to Minute 5) of the Boat Park Committee Meeting held 31st March 2006, the Boat Park Attendant noted that there were still a number of dinghies

stored in front of the fishermen's huts that did not belong to the hut occupiers. Mr Lander, representative of the Swanage Fishermen's Association, noted that there was still no numbering on the dinghies and this made policing of the area difficult. After further discussion it was AGREED:

That the hut tenants be requested to paint their hut numbers onto their dinghies and that any that remain un-numbered be removed.

6) Fishermen's Jetty

Councillor Tyrer reported on his meeting with Alan Lander, Mike Goater (the District Engineer) and Craig Whibley of SWRDA held on Thursday 7th December. The cost of the works were estimated to be between £50,000 and £60,000, including an extension of the jetty by approximately 3m to accommodate larger boats in deeper water. The District Engineer is to prepare a report on the existing state of the jetty. It was noted that the FIFG scheme would only fund a maximum of 50% of the costs, and that additional funding must be sought. The importance of the MCTi as a route to attaining funding from the RDA was highlighted. BP and Wessex Water were also suggested as potential sources of funding. The Operations Manager highlighted the need to appoint a project manager and it was agreed that Councillor Tyrer would consult the Operations Manager on this matter. It was RESOLVED:

That the matter be considered as part of the Town Council's impending review of its Capital Programme.

Some concern was expressed over the placing of a sign on the jetty stating 'fishermen's use only' as this could jeopardise funding from any tourism related body and it was AGREED:

That no sign be placed on the jetty at the present time.

7) Items of Information and Matters for Forthcoming Agendas

The Chairman invited the Committee to comment on the items relating to the Boat Park that are currently included in the Capital Programme. It was agreed that everything listed should remain for the full Council to prioritise.

Councillor Hadley reported that the Swanage Bay Users Association now has a website www.swanagebayusersassociation.blogspot.com. A number of issues of concern had been raised at recent meetings including the need for better signage relating to speed limits in the bay, provisions for rubbish disposal in the Boat Park and the need for a rear window in the Boat Park attendant's hut to aid surveillance.

9) Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting has been set for 2.15 p.m. on Friday 9th March 2007.

The Meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.
