

# Chichester Marina Berth Holders' Association

## Annual General Meeting

held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 19:00  
at Chichester Yacht Club and on Zoom

### Draft Minutes

#### Present

(signed in at CYC): Howard Bentley (Chair), Peter Moore (Membership Secretary), Martin Lawrence (Committee Member), David Dobbs, Basil Papadimitriou, Mike Oakland, Mark Warren, David Wadesmith, Mike Machin, Mike & Jill Howard, David Barrett, David & Sandra Gore, Ingvar & Anna Svenson, Chris Wadlow, Jonathan & Sabrena Baynton, Martin Tomlinson, Tara Kendall-Sykes, Will (surname unknown).

(signed in on Zoom): David Hargroves (Committee Member), Tim Whitehouse, Clive Dawson, Tony Clifton-Samuel, Peter Vernon, Glenn Jones.

#### 1. Chair's Welcome

At 19:00 the Chair formally opened the meeting, welcoming and thanking all attendees. He went on set the scene describing the meeting as an inflection point where voting could either end with the appointment of a new committee and a reboot of the Association or the dissolving of the Association. The background context to enable attendees to decide will be revealed during the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies:

Apologies had been received from: Gabriel Andrisan, Guy Boyd, David Burall, Rodney Camrass, Paul Cook, Jean-Pierre Dias, Paul Devonshire, Dr. Ian Duff, Jane & Graham Fletcher, Christopher Galt, Gina Houlihan, Christopher Knight, Graham Mason (Treasurer), Pam & David Priscott, Paul Rosoman, John & Christine Ryde, Geoffrey Steeden, James Sullivan, Charlie Vernon, John Waddington (who apologised post meeting).

#### 3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The Chair asked for those who attended the last AGM to approve the draft minutes of the AGM held on Zoom on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022. The minutes approval was proposed by David Dobbs and seconded by Martin Lawrence.

#### 4. Committee Report

The Chair highlighted elements from the written report, circulated before the meeting. In particular;

- The two significant meetings held with Pete Bradshaw, CEO Premier Marina and the conclusion that Premier found value in a Berth Holder Association that enhanced and supported their existing berth holder services. At the first meeting, CMBHA was asked to consider the challenge and to propose a solution.
- The extensive work conducted by Committee members and pontoon representatives to create a framework for the above. The Chair was able to show the outputs of the work, which was on display for the benefit of attendees.
- Following the second Premier meeting, Premier accepted the scope of the framework but would not commit to any specific reciprocity, simply stating that any actions on their part will be at their discretion.

- The decision of the Committee to open membership to all Berth Holders free of charge. This effectively means that all berth holders are de facto members. All we need is their contact details and consent.
- The current state of the Association in terms of assets (physical and non-tangible)
- Past successes and achievements of the Association

The precis created passionate discussion amongst attendees. Topic areas included:

- The Associations need to significantly swell membership numbers to create a stronger representative weight
- Frustrations of variable levels of service, especially at less busy times when staffing is short (evenings/nights), including lack of fuel pontoon availability etc.
- Security and open access
- The need to use the My Premier App to record issues that need to be addressed
- There was also a recognition that during the past 12/18 months some aspects of Marina life had improved

Questions asked to the Chair (*answers from Chair*):

- Were you surprised at Premier's lack of commitment to the proposed framework? (*yes – since our proposals are mostly about helping and supporting the Marina*)
- Has the Marina forbidden us to recruit new members? (*No – not to our knowledge*)
- Can we ask Premier to help us recruit non member Berth Holders? (*yes – they have already committed to an article in their Masthead Newsletter, notices on the information boards, and a page on their website – all need to be actioned by the Association to provide copy and media*)
- (A non-member) How do I join the Association? – (*use the 'Join' button on our website*)

The Chair concluded the report by thanking Committee members for their work, in particular Peter Moore, who had stepped in to provide much needed support in the area of maintaining contact with the membership and growing numbers of pontoon reps, as well as in preparing for the meetings described.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

The Chair took the meeting through the report, and quoted the bank balance as £4933.20 (at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022). He noted minimal outgoings during the year. He also explained the rationale behind the 2 affiliated organisations to which the Association subscribes; The RYA, under whose auspices the original Berth Holder Charter with Premier was established, and Chichester Federation, who hold 4 seats on the statutory advisory body to Chichester Conservancy, with influence over planning matters.

Given that the financial year ends only a day after the AGM, the Chair brought the meeting up-to-date with the current financial bank balance of circa £4,800 (September 2023).

The approval of the Treasurers Report was proposed by David Gore and seconded by Basil Papadimitriou.

The Chair thanked Graham Mason for his work as Treasurer, especially as he hasn't had a berth in the marina for many years.

## **6. Setting and Approving Resolutions**

The Chair outlined the resolutions that would be voted upon by attendees. He asked attendees to base their voting upon their considerations of the discussions held at point 4 above.

The Chair asked for further volunteers to join the Committee – Mark Warren put himself forward to join Malcolm Hyde, Mike Howard and Peter Vernon who had previously put their names forward.

Given the contextual presentation and discussions during this meeting and the fact that those who have volunteered to take the Association forward are not prepared to continue as Committee members, should a workable relationship of purpose fail to emerge with Premier, The Chair asked for an initial show of hands to determine if a vote should be taken to dissolve the Association immediately. Attendees overwhelmingly felt the Association should continue.

Further the Chair proposed a resolution that would enable the Committee to dissolve the Association, in the event of an unsatisfactory relationship between the Association and Premier. Attendees felt that such a move should not be taken without an Extraordinary General Meeting.

## **7. Voting on Resolutions**

With the resolutions set – voting commenced (on-line voting for those on Zoom and show of hands in the room):

- To Re-elect Graham Mason as Treasurer (Passed)
- To elect Mike Howard as a Committee Member (Passed)
- To elect Malcolm Hyde as a Committee Member (Passed)
- To elect Peter Vernon as a Committee Member (Passed)
- To elect Mark Warren as a Committee Member (Passed)
- To allow the Committee to appoint other Committee members and Supporters during the year (Passed)
- In the event that either the number of Committee members falls below 4 or if a healthy, positive working relationship between Premier and CMBHA cannot be established, to allow the Committee to propose the dissolving of the Association to an Extraordinary General Meeting (Passed)

All resolutions were passed well beyond the minimum of the 8 positive votes needed and all at least an 80% positive vote amongst attendees.

## **8. Any Other Business**

A suggestion was made to install an Association leaflet box on every bridgehead.

A leaflet drop on every boat was suggested but the outgoing Chair advised against it for a number of significant reasons.

Vote of thanks and round of applause was offered to outgoing Chair Howard Bentley and the Committee for the work and perseverance to keep the Association running.

## **9. The meeting closed at 20:18.**