

Waldringfield Fairway Committee

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2017

Waldringfield Fairway Committee was formed in 1938 to manage moorings at Waldringfield and we hold the Crown Estate lease of the river bed from Methersgate Quay to Early Creek. The committee comprises two representatives of the Parish council, four from the sailing club, a riparian landowner and two local businesses. Our main responsibilities are:

- To pay the annual rent to The Crown Estates
- To allocate mooring sites and collect licence fees
- To maintain a navigable fairway
- To install and maintain navigation marks

The number of moorings increased rapidly until the 1970s when it was decided that the number should be limited to about 220. The committee also decided to impose a maximum length of 36 ft for moored craft. We carry out an annual inspection to ensure these limits are adhered to. There is also an annual inspection by Trinity House to ensure our ten navigation marks are “in good and efficient order”.

The five year rent review has recently been concluded and after some negotiation an increase of 14.5% was agreed. Nevertheless we have managed to maintain our fees at last year's level. As well as his other duties, Tony (our Harbourmaster) collects mooring dues from visiting yachts. This is all donated to charity and this year we are donating £840 to the RNLI and two sailing charities.

Although we have a waiting list, village residents are given priority when applying for moorings. This year we have been able to re-allocate ten mooring sites and have arranged loans of five moorings for the season. In most years we issue around 200 dinghy licences to mooring holders and village residents. We are aware that there is some concern over the number of dinghies on the beach, although this number has fallen over recent years. We would therefore encourage owners to consider sharing where possible.

Our annual public meeting this year will be held at 7.30pm on 27th April in the Kennedy Room, to which all are invited.

For further information, please contact the WFC secretary, John Smith, on 01473 736257 or have a look at our page on the WSC web site <http://waldringfieldsc.com/waldringfield-moorings/>