

Waldringfield Fairway Committee

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2015

Waldringfield Fairway Committee was formed in 1938 to manage moorings at Waldringfield. We hold the Crown Estate lease of the river bed from Methersgate Quay to Early Creek. The committee comprises two representatives from 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

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 navigation marks are “in good and efficient order”.

Although we have a long waiting list, village residents are given priority when applying for moorings. This year we have been able to re-allocate five mooring sites and have arranged loans of four moorings for the season. In most years we issue over 200 dinghy licences to mooring holders and residents.

We pay for the services of a Harbourmaster, who advises on the position of moorings, assists visiting yachts and deals with maintenance of navigation marks and dinghy chains. Tony Lyon is now in his second year in the post and can be seen on the river most days. Over the past year he has had to deal with a number of craft breaking adrift from their moorings and has recovered several dinghies that have escaped from the beach. Visiting yachts usually pay a voluntary mooring fee of £10 per night. Proceeds from this income have been divided between the RNLI and a donation towards the purchase of the defibrillator.

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/>