

Waldringfield Fairway Committee

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2016

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 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”.

The Committee is a non-profit organisation, and although there was a small surplus last year, it was felt necessary to increase our fees this year to cover increasing costs and a forecast increase in the Crown Estate rent. 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. The Committee have been concerned about the number of dinghies remaining on the beach at the end of the sailing season and Tony (our Harbourmaster) has achieved a significant reduction in this number.

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 seven mooring sites and have arranged loans of four moorings for the season. In most years we issue around 200 dinghy licences to mooring holders and village residents.

Our annual public meeting this year will be held at 7.30pm on 14th 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/>