

Waldringfield Fairway Committee

Report for Annual Parish Meeting 2024

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 count 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 rent we have to pay to the Crown Estate is reviewed every five years and has recently increased by 26%. This year we have therefore had to increase our fees but we hope no further increase will be necessary until the next rent review.

As well as his other duties, Tony (our Harbourmaster) collects mooring fees from visiting yachts. This is all donated to charity and last year over £900 was divided between the The Woolverstone Project, EAST (both charities for disabled sailing) and the Sutton Hoo replica ship project .

Although we have a waiting list, village residents are given priority when applying for moorings. This year we have been able to re-allocate eight mooring sites. In most years we issue around 190 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. In response to requests from residents and beach users, the Committee has agreed to restrict dinghy permits to the period from 1st March until 30th November.

The scrubbing posts had been out of action for a few years but the Committee have now been able to arrange their replacement at a cost of almost £6000.

Our annual public meeting this year took place on 21st March and was attended by several village residents and mooring holders. Concerns were raised regarding damage to beach dinghies in stormy weather. We will be encouraging owners to regularly empty rainwater to avoid damage to nearby dinghies.

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