



The purpose of this Report is to provide an update on developments in the management of the Haven and its seaweed.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Haven was completed on 1 August 2003 at a cost of £2,476,953 with Cheetah Marine appointed as its manager.
 - b) At the time of its design and construction the accumulation of sediment and seaweed was not a predicted problem.
 - c) In the summer season of 2010 the fact that its accumulated seaweed that rotted and produced hydrogen sulphide was sufficient to cause potential visitors to cancel hotel bookings on arrival and made it impossible for residents to open their windows as far away as Upper Ventnor.
 - d) The proposal to commission a boat with a pump to collect the seaweed and eject it over the wall from Cheetah Marine led the Isle of Wight Council asking Ventnor Town Council to contribute half the estimated cost in form of a £12,500 grant; the request was refused.
 - e) The cost of the seaweed treatment has grown significantly in recent years, from £87,420 in 2020/21 to £103,155 in 2022/23.
 - f) The Isle of Wight Council decided to put the management of the Haven out to tender on 24 August.
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2) NEW MANAGEMENT

- a) The specification for the contract included: Supervision of the harbour included: Supervision of the harbour, Management of the berths, Collection of berthing income, Maintenance of pontoons, navigation lights and harbour infrastructure, Full insuring liability, Reporting all accidents and incidents, Provision of monthly, quarterly, and annual reports, Compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC), Compliance with all relevant legislation, including Health and Safety, Statutory returns to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), Removal of seaweed in accordance with the current MMO licence.
 - b) Two tenders were received by the closing date of 27 September 2022 for the wide range of management functions: one from Cheetah Marine in a total of 264,320 and one from the newly registered Ventnor Haven Management Limited at £78,500.
 - c) Ventnor Haven Management Limited was registered on 22 August 2022 with three Directors: Edward, Cheryl and Geoffrey Blake and described in the Isle of Wight Council's Report as having their roots in the Ventnor Haven Fishery which they own and operate from within the harbour.
 - d) Cheetah Marine's Sea Strevens told the Town Council in an email response to the new arrangements:
Cheetah Marine will fully support Geoff and Ed during the change of contracts, the handover of the dredging and where we may be needed in the future. Geoff and ED are very capable of making this a success and have the drive to keep the harbour dredged and clear of seaweed. We built our dredger in 2011 and it went into service in 2012. The dredger has now completed 10 years work so it is a good time for change.
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3) RECOMMENDATION

The Town Council is recommended to note the Report.
