



**Notes of the Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 4pm  
With Aquavista Company  
Planning Application 21/02040/FUL**

The planning application is for 'Change of use to enable the installation of 5 water lodges to be used as holiday accommodation'.

**Present:** Ade Saunders - Aquavista Company, David Scane - representing Aquavista Company  
Cllr. Graham Campbell Birdham Parish Council  
Cllr. Timothy Firmston Birdham Parish Council & Note Taker

**Notes.**

Timothy Firmston declared an interest as a current berth holder at Birdham Pool.

The application had been submitted in 2021 by the previous owners Castle Marinas and when they were taken over by Aquavista in December 2021 the application was resurrected.

Aquavista now have 29 coastal and inland marinas and only Birdham Pool is located in an AONB. Birdham Pool has 285 berths and these are full. There are five coastal marinas and Limehouse in London. The company has a total of 2500 moorings of which 750 are residential moorings officially consented.

The previous organisation British Waterways – Marinas became Aquavista and British Waterways – Canals became the Canal and River Trust. Aquavista want to improve the infrastructure and improve the customer experience. The company is backed by Lloyds Development Capital who own 82% and the management own the remaining 18%.

The five water lodges are already purchased and are in storage. The suggestion that Aquavista sell off these water lodges and cancel the planning

application was not accepted. The company want to discuss their plans with the community.

On the CDC planning portal as of Wednesday morning 27<sup>th</sup> July there are 120 objections from individuals and nine or ten organisations objecting or seeking further information on the application.

There is a risk of declining marine skills unless development at the marina can take place. The proposed business model was explained, to sell each water lodge for a capital income and then receive an annual rental income from the moorings for each water lodge. The water lodge rental agreement can be granted for a longer time, say five years, renewable annually. This would give Aquavista a more certain rental income each year. Water lodges can be used by ex-boating people who do not wish to own and use a boat but still like the marina and boat experience.

The five water lodges would be dispersed through Birdham Pool to reduce the visual impact. Each could be fitted with an external engine on the stern and pass through the lock to the Harbour. Each water lodge is 4.2 metres wide and the lock is 4.8 metres wide. There would be no railings on the roof as the water lodge would be single storey use only. Earlier photographs of a similar water lodge were unhelpful in conveying the actual design.

Birdham Pool requires investment now and Aquavista needs to raise capital.

### **Close of Meeting**

Timothy Firmston thanked the Aquavista staff for attending the meeting and was pleased that dialogue and discussions had started with the Parish Council and that these can continue. Aquavista are welcome to attend any Parish Council meeting which are held on the second Wednesday evening of each month, apart from August.

The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.

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