

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble on 2 September, 2011

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor S. D. T. Woodward

Vice-Chairman:
a Councillor Dr. R. J. Ellis

Councillors:

p Mrs C. A. Bailey
a G. Burgess
p A. Broadhurst
a M.G. Cooper

p C. Davidovitz
a A. D. G. Evans
p A. Gibson
p A. W. Rice, TD

Eastleigh Borough Council

p Councillor Mrs S. Ingram

Fareham Borough Council

p Councillor T. M. Cartwright

Winchester City Council

p Councillor Victoria Weston

Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs

p Mr P. Middleton

British Marine Federation

p Mr M. Glanville

Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association

p Mr R. Boissier

Berth and Mooring Holders Representative

p Mr D. O'Malley

Royal Yachting Association

p Mrs P. Dorothy

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. Burgess; R.J. Ellis and A.D.G. Evans.

112. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code. The normal declarations of interest applied among those present at this meeting.

Councillors S. Woodward and V. Weston both declared interests by reason of their being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble, as did Mr. R. Boissier, Mrs P. Dorothy, Mr. M. Glanville, Mr. P. Middleton and Mr. D. O'Malley.

Councillors T. Cartwright, C. Bailey and V. Weston, along with Mr. D. O'Malley and Mr. P. Middleton, also declared interests as members of Local Yacht or Sailing Clubs.

Mr. M. Glanville declared an interest as an employee of Marine Developments Ltd.

The Chairman reminded Members who had declared an interest by virtue of being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble that this would be prejudicial to the consideration of Harbour Dues (Item 12 in the Minute Book) and that those Members should withdraw from the meeting at that point.

113. MINUTES

The Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee meeting held on 24 June, 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

114. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements under this item.

115. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 5 in the Minute Book). The

Chairman confirmed that the vacancy on the Committee noted at the previous meeting had been filled following the appointment of Councillor Graham Burgess at the County Council meeting on 14 July 2011.

The Chairman also announced that following an application process, a sub-group of the Committee were proposing the appointment of Mr Dermod O'Malley to the vacant position of Berth and Mooring Holders' Representative and asked for the Committee's agreement to this.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Burgess and Mr O'Malley be formally accepted on to the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee.

116. **DEPUTATIONS**

It was confirmed that no applications to make a deputation at the meeting had been received.

117. **HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on incidents and events in the Harbour for the period 24 June to 20 August 2011. A separate annex detailing incidents since the 20 August 2011 was distributed to Members.

Incidents of swimming in the River were discussed and the Marine Director explained that it was not possible to have an official swimming area without providing lifeguard cover, therefore it had been necessary to impose a ban on swimming from the Warsash jetties. Members felt that supporting people to swim in the River should be considered as they were also River users. A Panel Member pointed out that in other areas, lifeguard cover was provided in partnership with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI). It was agreed that the RNLI should be contacted to establish whether lifeguarding provision for the River Hamble was feasible.

A Member asked why some boats requiring assistance were charged whilst others were not. The Marine Director explained that free assistance was only available to the nearest available berth, but that many boat owners were happy to pay to be taken further.

With regard to paragraph 3.18 in the report the Marine Director was asked whether it was a requirement to report damage. He confirmed that it was, however if people chose not to do so, then it was difficult to take action in such cases.

Thefts on the River were discussed and the Marine Director informed Members that the Harbour Office was working closely with the Police on this matter.

The issue of people digging commercially for bait was raised and it was explained that this was a significant problem around the Solent and that multiple agencies were working together to address it.

Recent evidence of poor behaviour by River users in powerboats was described by a Member. The Marine Director acknowledged that enforcing Harbour rules such as speed limits was difficult, but confirmed that action was being taken with the resources available.

The Committee noted the recent successful prosecutions as detailed in the report. They furthermore noted and welcomed the forthcoming amnesty day for out of date flares. The Marine Director expected more than 1000 flares to be handed in and explained that various agencies involved in marine safety would be on hand as part of the event. He confirmed that it was being publicised via the yachting press, a Notice to River Users, flyers and the website.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

118. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on issues relating to the environmental management of the Harbour.

The Environmental Officer outlined the new marine licensing system, pointing out in particular that the application cost for a licence had increased substantially. Members discussed the possibility of applying for a collective license and it was confirmed that if a number of projects were grouped together, this would incur only one charge. It was agreed that concerns that Members had with the new system be set out when the policy is reviewed in 2012.

The remaining areas of the report were briefly detailed by the Environmental Officer, in particular explaining how a study of electrolysis may be of benefit to Harbour users in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

119. ANNUAL REVIEW OF STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLANS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture,

Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding the River Hamble Strategic Plan and associated Business Plan.

The Marine Director explained that the Strategic and Business Plans were scheduled to be reviewed on an annual basis and asked for comments from the Members on the existing plans.

With regard to the Strategic Plan:

- (paragraph 2) The addition of swimming as a recognised leisure activity on the River
- (paragraph 4) That a map showing Hampshire County Council landholdings be added.
- (paragraph 8.iv) That a commitment to improve people's understanding be added and reflected in the Business Plan

With regard to the Business Plan:

- (action 23) The Committee expressed concern about the progress of access improvement projects and suggested that there was a need to resolve issues with Hamble Parish Council.
- (action 31) Trends in recreational boating and how these may be monitored were briefly discussed.
- (action 32) Members proposed that a working group be established to liaise with the County Treasurer and Marine Director on the 2012-13 budget. It was agreed that the group consist of Councillor Cartwright, Mr M. Glanville and Mr R. Boissier.
- (action 35) Staffing issues were discussed by the Committee, in particular the Marine Director's ambition to recruit an apprentice or trainee. Several Members contributed useful information about the hiring of apprentices from their personal experience and there was general support for the Marine Director's proposal. The Chairman of the River Hamble Harbour Board, who was observing the meeting, also indicated his support when asked by the Management Committee Chairman for his view.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee proposes the amendments and comments detailed above regarding the Strategic Plan and Business Plan to the River Hamble Harbour Board.

120. **STRATEGIC VISION**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding a strategic vision for the River Hamble

The Marine Director outlined the background to the Strategic Vision

document and thanked the sub-committee who had contributed to it for their input. The Committee were asked for comments on the document to be recommended to the Harbour Board.

Consultation on the document was discussed and it was noted that this was a first draft and that it would be consulted on widely once the draft text had been approved by the Harbour Board. It was proposed that consultation should be via all the organisations represented on the Management Committee. Furthermore that a consultation time limit of 30 November 2011 be set.

Specific points were raised on the content of the document:

- Paragraph 1.1. It was proposed to change “universal” to “co-ordinated”.
- Paragraph 4.4.1. It was proposed that a reference to swimming be added.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee recommend amendments to the draft Strategic Vision as detailed above to the Harbour Board.
- (b) That the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee recommend a consultation process as detailed above to the Harbour Board.

121. **FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book) with regard to the key issues anticipated to appear on future River Hamble Management Committee and Harbour Board meeting agenda. It was noted that the December Harbour Board meeting had been omitted from the schedule. The Marine Director confirmed that standard business items were expected at that time.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

122. **HARBOUR DUES 2012**

The Chairman invited any Member with a prejudicial interest in the item to make a deputation prior to withdrawing from the meeting.

A deputation was received from Mr P Middleton from the Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs. He highlighted the importance of the

effective collection of Harbour Dues and suggested that many people do not pay and do not display evidence of having paid. Mr Middleton detailed some of the collection methods used in another harbour, in particular the ability to levy a penalty for not paying, and proposed that something similar be adopted by the River Hamble.

Councillors S. Woodward and V. Weston both declared prejudicial interests by reason of their being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble, as did Mr. R. Boissier, Mrs P. Dorothy, Mr. M. Glanville, Mr. P. Middleton and Mr. D. O'Malley. All Members declaring an interest withdrew themselves from the meeting for the consideration of the item.

It was proposed and agreed that Councillor Cartwright act as Chairman of the meeting in the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book) regarding Harbour dues in 2012. The Marine Director confirmed that 2012 was the final phase of a five year equalisation programme and that the figures reflected that. He was confident that a zero increase in the Dues could be contained in the budget.

The issue of effective collection of Dues was discussed and the Marine Director explained that collection was not always cost effective and could be very difficult with the resources available. Therefore the Harbour Authority had a policy of informing and educating people that they should be paying Dues, in addition to monitoring and enforcing compliance where possible.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Management Committee advises the Harbour Board to approve the Harbour Dues as set out in the report.

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