AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at the Royal Air Force Yacht Club on 23 September 2011

**PRESENT:**

**Hampshire County Council**

Councillors:
p K. Evans (Chairman)
p G. Hockley
a K. House

**Independent Members**

p Mr. D. Jobson
a Mr. C. Moody
p Dr. S. Tomson

**Marine Director**

p D. Evans

128. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K. House and Mr. C. Moody.

129. **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.

Messrs Evans and Jobson, together with Dr. S. Tomson would have normally declared a personal prejudicial interest on the item relating to Harbour Dues as being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble (Minute 145 refers).

130. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 12 September 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

131. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chairman reported it was to be Graham Horton's last meeting of the Board. He thanked Graham for his valuable work as Environment and Development Manager and wished him every success in the future.

132. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations to this meeting.

133. **RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - 2 SEPTEMBER 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting of the River Hamble Management Committee held on 2 September 2011 (Item 6 in the Minute Book) were considered and noted. The recommendations to the Board contained therein are referred to below (Minutes 139, 140 and 145 refer).

134. **HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

The Deputy Harbour Master presented the Harbour Master's report which outlined incidents and events in the Harbour from 27 June until 11 September 2011 (Item 7 in the Minute Book) and a supplementary report was circulated at the meeting (Item 7(i) in the Minute Book) for the further period until 20 September 2011. Also, the Deputy Harbour Master tabled at the meeting graphical information showing the types of assistance provided by the Harbour Office (Item 7(ii) in the Minute Book). It had, in particular, identified a high number of attendances involving mooring problems. The results of the information had proved useful and was being acted upon.

The Deputy Harbour Master responded to queries from Members of the Board on the following points:

3.19 There was a very good working relationship between the River Hamble Office and the Coastguard in responding to incidents.

3.36 More details were provided about the ten bait diggers, operating from four vans on 29th August, in the vicinity of Universal.

4.1 The Marine Director explained the steps required to support a successful prosecution in relation to cases of speeding vessels on the River.

6.1 There was expected to be a very good response to the Time Expired Pyrotechnics - Amnesty Day on 8 October 2011. It had been organised to address the disposal of out-of-date flares on boats on and around the River Hamble.

7. The Harbour Authority's compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code Audit was welcomed.

1.2 of Appendix - The Chairmen praised Harbour Office staff for the professional way in which they had acted on 13 September in assisting a distressed person in the water. Their prompt actions had most likely saved the individual's life.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

135. **MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) detailing current issues relating to the Harbour.

**Asset Enhancement Programme**

The Marine Director reported that at its meeting on 8 April 2011, the Harbour Board had agreed that two of the proposed Asset Enhancement projects, namely the extension to the Hamble Jetty and the improved tender storage facility on the Hamble Jetty, should be submitted to Eastleigh Borough Council for pre-application planning advice. The Board were unhappy to note that to date nothing further had been received from the Borough Council, though their advice was expected shortly. Notwithstanding this, the Board asked the Marine Director to convey their concerns over the delay. Members felt it would also be helpful to receive similar pre-application advice from Fareham Borough Council on the proposed improved tender storage facilities on the Warsash Jetty. The Marine Director agreed to arrange this.

The Board were informed of the process to select two independent members due to Tony Lovell (Recreational Boating) and Chris Moody (Commercial) having reached the end of their initial six year terms of office. It was confirmed that an Appointments Panel had selected David Jobson (Recreational Boating) and Chris Moody (for a second term). The vacancy on the River Hamble Management Committee for a Berth and Mooring Holders' Representative had also now been filled by Dermod O'Malley.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

136. **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) summarising issues relevant to the environmental management of the Harbour.

The Environmental and Development Manager responded to queries from Members of the Board on the following points:

2.1.1 An update was provided on the meeting with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on 11 August 2011. Whilst the Board noted an assurance had been given that their concerns regarding the requirements for a marine licence and the costs for applying for a licence would be taken into account when the Marine licensing system was revised in April 2012, they felt it was appropriate to lodge their concerns formally. Accordingly, the Marine Director agreed to write to the MMO in this regard.

2.2 Further details were reported about the latest Streamlined Consents Meeting held on 11 August 2011. It provided an opportunity to those wishing to carry out development on the River to meet with the various consenting bodies to receive free and confidential advice on the different consents required, their timescales and their costs.

2.3 The present position was reported on the Hamble Estuary Partnership. As part of its work the Partnership was looking to facilitate a project to investigate the differing rates of electrolysis which occur on vessels within different parts of the River. Also, it was noted that the RHHA was working with a Masters Student at the University of Portsmouth to support her thesis topic on the attitudes of recreational boaters based in the River Hamble to Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). Whilst there are no MCZs proposed for the River Hamble, there were several sites proposed around the Isle of Wight including Osborne Bay and around Bembridge.

2.5 It was confirmed that the River Hamble Maintenance Dredge Plan had now been completed by ABP Marine Environment Research Limited. The document would be used by the MMO when they are considering whether to issue a Marine Licence for maintenance dredges in the River Hamble.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

137. **SOUTHAMPTON CHANNEL DREDGE - RIVER HAMBLE SAFEGUARDING AGREEMENT**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) giving a detailed overview of the contents of the confidential legal agreement between Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Associated British Ports (ABP) regarding the Southampton Approach Channel Dredge.

The Environmental and Development Manager reported that the agreement was now in the process of being finalised. It formed an accurate representation of the complex negotiations leading up to finalisation of the terms of the agreement between HCC and ABP. The document was expected to be signed shortly by an appropriate official of Hampshire County Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

138. **RIVER HAMBLE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2010/11**

The Board considered the report of the County Treasurer and Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 11 in the Minute Book) on the River Hamble Final Accounts 2011.

The Head of Finance (Culture, Community and Business Services) outlined the key issues on the final accounts. During the financial year 2010/11, a surplus of £41,781 had been achieved and added to the Revenue Reserve. This had been £19,181 more than budgeted for. Expenditure was under budget by £11,264 and income exceeded the budget by £7,917. It was noted that further details on the breakdown of the income and expenditure were set out in the Appendices to the report, including Central Department Charges.

RESOLVED:

That the final accounts for 2010/11 be approved.

## 139. ANNUAL REVIEW OF STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLANS

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book) regarding the River Hamble Strategic Plan and associated Business Plan.

The Harbour Master introduced the Strategic and Business Plans. Attention was drawn to the proposed amendments and comments made by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee on 2 September 2011 (Minute 119 of that meeting).

The Board supported the proposed amendments by the Management Committee and made further amendments which were noted by the Marine Director as follows:

Strategic Plan: Para 7(iv)  Amend to read "To enhance the public perception and understanding of the Harbour Authority…."
Business Plan: Add a new Staff objective to cover the proposal to recruit a Harbour Patrol Assistant in a training role to augment the current manpower.
Business Plan:  Line 23 – to be brought to resolution as soon as possible.
Business Plan:  Line 24 – Harbour Board to be updated in December 2011.

There followed a detailed discussion on the addition of swimming as a recognised leisure activity on the River. There was a difference of opinion between two of the Board Members on this in terms of possibly being seen as positive approval of swimming in the river in general. The Marine Director explained the present position and that whilst it was appropriate and had proved necessary to impose a ban on swimming from Harbour facilities (Warsash Jetties, etc), a ban on swimming from the River Foreshore was not enforceable or deemed by some to be appropriate. Whilst appreciating the sensitivity of the issues involved, the Board asked the Marine Director to investigate what might be done by the Harbour Office to highlight the hazards of swimming in parts of the River. Members asked to receive a report back on this in due course.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board approve the Strategic Plan and annual Business Plan, incorporating the amendments made by the Management Committee on 2 September and by the Harbour Board at this meeting.

140. **STRATEGIC VISION**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 13 in the Minute Book) on the first draft of a Strategic Vision for the River Hamble.

The Marine Director outlined the background to the Strategic Vision document. He highlighted the recommended amendments made by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee on 2 September 2011 (Minute 120 of that meeting refers). Also, highlighted was the Management Committee's recommendation that the document be consulted upon widely once the draft text had been approved by the Harbour Board. It was further felt that a consultation time limit of 30 November 2011 be set.

The Board welcomed the Strategic Vision as a positive document and supported each of the amendments proposed by the Management Committee, including the proposal for wide consultation. The Board asked that there be a report back on progress to their next meeting.

Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board:

(a) Approves the wording of the draft Strategic Vision, and;

(b) Agrees that members of the Managmeent Committee should undertake further consultation, to be reported to the Marine Director by 30 November 2011.

141. **PROPOSAL TO REPLACE HARBOUR AUTHORITY DORY**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 14 in the Minute Book) on the business case for replacement of the Harbour Authority's 4 metre Dory. Members noted that the preferred option was supported by the Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board proceeds with the purchase of a 5.4 metre RIB and a 50 or 60 hp outboard engine as set out in the report.

142. **HARBOUR AUTHORITY WORKS AND STORE - BUSINESS CASE**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 15 in the Minute Book) setting out the business case for constructing a new workshop and store for use by the Authority. Members noted that the Marine Director's proposal was supported by the Management Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board approves the funding for constructing a new workshop and store for use by the Harbour Authority.

143. **PROCEEDINGS OF ANNUAL FORUM 2011**

The Board received and noted the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 16 in the Minute Book) about the proceedings of the River Hamble Annual Forum held on 29 March 2011 at Hamble Primary School.

144. **FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board received and noted the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 17 in the Minute Book) with regard to the key issues anticipated to appear on future River Hamble Management and Harbour Board Agendas

145. **HARBOUR DUES 2012**

Messrs Evans and Jobson, along with Dr. S. Thomson would normally have declared personal prejudicial interests on this item as being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble. However, in this instance, there being no proposal to increase harbour dues for 2012, the three involved chose, on the legal advice provided at the meeting, to remain and to participate in making the decision on the item.

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 18 in the Minute Book) about Harbour Dues for 2012. It supported no overall increase in the level of harbour dues for 2012, and that the final stage of the five-year equalisation process be implemented. The same report had been considered and agreed by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee on 2 September 2011.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board approves the Harbour Dues for 2012 as shown in the table of the submitted report.

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