

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at the Royal Air Force Yacht Club on 27 January 2012.

PRESENT:

Hampshire County Council

Councillors:

p K. Evans (Chairman)

p G. Hockley

p K. House

Independent Members

p Mr. D. Jobson

p Mr. C. Moody

p Dr. S. Tomson

Marine Director

p D. Evans

154. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members of the Board were present.

155. 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.

156. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 2 December 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that planning permission for the extension to the Hamble jetty had not yet been applied for as it had been brought to the Marine Director's attention that other works were also being planned in the area and a re-assessment of the situation was required.

157. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced details of the River Hamble Harbour Games, planned for summer 2012.

Peter Jennings, a new Harbour Patrol Assistant with the Harbour Authority team was introduced and welcomed.

158. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations.

159. RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 6 JANUARY 2012

The Board received the Minutes of the recent River Hamble Harbour Management Committee and noted their content. In particular it was noted that the Management Committee had given their approval to the Vision Statement, on the basis of it being a living document that could regularly be reviewed.

160. HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

The Board received the Harbour Master's report (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding recent incidents and events in the Harbour. Further detail on the works being carried out on the saltmarsh north of Port Hamble was provided by the Marine Director. Members discussed the general issue of theft on the River and a new Police initiative to involve the wider River community in tackling crime was explained.

It was resolved that the report be noted.

161. 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), regarding a range of issues in the Harbour.

The Marine Director reminded Members of the steps that had been taken to draft the Strategic Vision. It was confirmed that it was to be seen as a living document to be updated according to evolving needs. It was agreed that a half yearly review should be added to the Forward Plan for Future Meetings. Publicity of the document was discussed and it was agreed that a hard copy be sent to interested Parties and that it be used to underpin future discussions with the Crown Estate. Members thanked the sub-group for their work.

It was proposed that new navigational buoys and piles be positioned on the River.

a) Swanwick Bend: It was explained that this would assist navigation, but would be unlit at first due to the proximity to property. The Board approved the proposed new pile.

b) Riverside Boatyard: This was required to prevent boats from cutting the corner over a shallow area. As the need for this largely derived from an increase in larger vessels entering the Eastland's boatyard, it was proposed that in the future consideration be given to making Harbour Works Consent conditional on a contribution towards necessary navigational aids. The Board approved the proposed buoy.

c) No. 1 Pile: A discussion was held regarding the issue of speeding in the Harbour and possible options to enforce a speed limit. It was noted that signs on single piles have caused problems in the past with boats getting tangled on them. Furthermore that a radar operated speed warning did not work well with boats. It was agreed that it was good practice to enforce the speed limit as thoroughly as possible and that the sign should include the wording "River Hamble Speed Limit Starts Here" or similar to make it clear to people that they were entering the River.

Members were updated on the ownership of the Hamble and Warsash slipways as per the report. In the case of the Hamble slipway, it was noted that it ends above the Spring Tide low water mark and therefore at times landing and launching was difficult. The Marine Director confirmed that he had received an estimate of £85,000 to widen the slipway by approximately two meters. Members noted that this was a high price, in particular as the slipway was not fully accessible by the public. It was proposed and agreed that a meeting be held with the Parish Council to discuss the issues and the Board updated on progress at the next meeting.

With regards to the slipway at Warsash, Members noted that it was heavily used, had an unusual gradient, was uneven, had a regular seaweed problem and was muddy to the sides. They felt that there was a case to make improvements and it was proposed that maintenance through surface repairs and removal of seaweed provided the most cost effective solution and would fit with the Vision Statement. The Board was informed that the County and District Councils had responsibility for seaweed removal and it was agreed that the Board should formally request an increase in the frequency of removal on the ground of public safety. It was furthermore agreed that an estimate for the cost of filling puddles and any appropriate additional works be obtained.

Members were updated on developments relating to tender storage and it was confirmed that the Parish Council was prepared to allocate space for the

Harbour Authority, although only when it became available on the basis of the waiting list. It was agreed that the details of this should be discussed with the Parish Council. It was noted that all of the current storage capacity was concentrated in one area of the River and it was acknowledged that increasing the capacity in other areas was desirable, but that the opportunity to do so was limited. A proposal was made that storage options be sought near Swanwick and it was agreed that discussions be held with Premier Marina and with Fareham Borough Council. It was noted that other options could be discounted due to a lack of access and parking. The question of charging for tender storage was raised and it was agreed that this should be reviewed if an investment into the storage facilities was made.

The Marine Director updated the Board on the education project and outlined the stages involved, he confirmed that resources from the County Council had been drawn upon to develop the project. It was proposed and agreed that the first stage, to determine the interest of schools, proceed.

It was resolved that the River Hamble Harbour Board agrees:

- To adopt and publish the Strategic Vision including sending hard copies to interested parties.
- To approve and fund the proposals for new navigation marks and signage.
- Notes the issues pertaining to slipway ownership and improvement, and tender storage.
- To formally request an increase in the frequency of seaweed removal.
- To obtain an estimate for repairs to the Warsash slipway.
- To meet with Hamble Parish Council to discuss the Hamble slipway and tender storage options.
- To proceed with stage one of the education project with local schools.

162. **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book), regarding activities relating to the environmental management of the Hamble Estuary since October 2011.

The Marine Director updated Members on changes to Marine Licences, confirming that dialogue was continuing with the Marine Management Organisation, particularly on the issue of small applications. There was a

feeling that the issues were being taken on board and it was hoped that a pragmatic solution would be found.

Members also noted that the Solent Forum had produced a new Guide to Marine Consents, which had received input from Harbour Authority officers. Updates to the Harbour Authority website had included an increase in the information available to people interested in obtaining a Harbour Works Consent. A recent visit by representatives of Natural England and the Environment Agency to view dredging had been very constructive.

The Harbour Board received a detailed presentation on “Hamble Riverview”, an online interactive map-based tool designed to bring information about the River together in one system. The main features were explained and different map layers demonstrated. Members agreed that it was a useful tool for both the public and for other agencies. Various options to develop the system further were discussed, including the addition of tidal data on photographs. It was confirmed that the software was developed by Hampshire County Council as part of a larger project and therefore at no cost to the Harbour Authority. The system was to be promoted via a direct link from the website and through other communication channels.

It was resolved that the River Hamble Harbour Board agrees:

To note the content of the report.

163. RIVER HAMBLE BUDGET 2011/12 AND 2012/13

The Board considered the report of the County Treasurer and the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding the River Hamble Budget.

The Marine Director outlined the amendments to the 2011/12 budget as well as the key features of the 2012/13 budget. He confirmed that the new budget had received detailed scrutiny from a sub-group of the Management Committee. In particular it was noted that: a reasonable surplus was forecast, the reserves were largely dependent on the outcomes of the asset enhancement proposals and that pay costs had remained low thanks to the successful restructure. The level of income from the Crown Estate was discussed and it was confirmed that this would be shown in the first budget review. Members were keen that any work carried out on behalf of other agencies was re-charged where possible.

It was resolved that the River Hamble Harbour Board agrees:

To approve the budget as presented in the report.

164. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book), regarding fees and charges (other than Harbour Dues for private vessels) applicable to the River Hamble.

The basis of the charges were detailed to Board Members and it was confirmed that only minor changes to the hourly rate for discretionary charges were proposed. It was noted that a number of services were provided on a goodwill basis with no charge. With regards to forthcoming pile maintenance work requiring the movement of boats, the Marine Director explained that if the Harbour Authority was required to move the boats, then the Crown Estate would be re-charged accordingly.

It was resolved that the River Hamble Harbour Board agrees:

To agree the fees and charges set out in the report and that they are advertised on the River Hamble website

165. RIVER HAMBLE GAMES

With the permission of the Chairman, Dr Tomson introduced an item not on the agenda, verbally updating Members on the River Hamble Games, scheduled for summer 2012. She confirmed that each event was being organised by a local organisation involved in that sport and that there was potential for 500 competitors across the six disciplines. Health and safety requirements were being supported by the Harbour Office and liability insurance was being underwritten by the County Council. It was confirmed that there had been substantial interest from local companies in supporting the event and Members discussed how the Harbour Authority could add their support. Proposals ranging between a general financial contribution, providing a subsidy for youth entries and funding for a longer lasting event legacy were made. It was resolved:

That specific proposals for Harbour Authority support should be drawn up for formal consideration at the next meeting.

166. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book), regarding forthcoming items for future meetings.

It was noted that the additional items detailed in Minutes 161 and 165 should be added.

It was resolved to note the report.