

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble-le-Rice on Friday 4 April 2014 at 10am

PRESENT:

Hampshire County Council

Councillors:

p K Evans (Chairman)

p P Latham

a K House

p R Price as Substitute for Cllr K House

Independent Members

p Ms N Hiorns

p Mr D Jobson

p Mr C Moody

Marine Director

p D Evans

53. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr House. The appointed Substitute, Councillor Price, was in attendance.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

55. MINUTES

Minute 50 (Review of Fees and Charges)

It was reported the HCC system could not implement the £0.005 increase and consequently the Board resolved unanimously to revise paragraph (i):

- (i) To increase the charge for a commercial vessel visiting Hamble harbour to 13p plus VAT per Gross Registered Tonne (GRT) per visit;

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 10 January 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

56. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Cllr Roger Price, the appointed Substitute Member for Cllr House; Captain Mark Capon, Designated Person and Dr Anthony Gallagher, Chairman of the Hamble Estuary Partnership.

57. DEPUTATIONS

Mr Roger Harding made a deputation about the public appeal to rebuild the Hamble Lifeboat Station. Members were given a history of the appeal and its current financial position together with the in-year plan to secure the planning permission, building agreement and commencement of works.

On conclusion, the Chairman brought forward the consideration of the Hamble Life Boat from the Marine Director's Current Issues report (Item 8, paragraph 8 in the Minute Book).

58. HAMBLE LIFE BOAT STATION

Members were invited to extend the pledge of matched funding for rebuilding the Hamble Lifeboat Station with the same amount decided by Hamble-le-Rice Parish Council up to £70,000. Members were generally supportive and expressed the wish for the new public-access toilet/shower block to be of good quality and for a regular cleaning/maintenance regime to be established (albeit outwith the control of the Harbour Authority). It was felt that the pledge should be time-limited, and to take effect after successful completion of regulatory and legal agreements.

The Chairman proposed, and it was seconded by Cllr Peter Latham, that the pledge expire on 31 December 2014.

The Board unanimously RESOLVED that:

- i) the River Hamble Harbour Board agree to pledge financial support from the Asset Enhancement Reserve towards the cost of rebuilding the Hamble Lifeboat Station, subject to successful completion of the necessary regulatory and legal requirements;
- ii) the amount of pledge to match that formally agreed by Hamble Parish Council subject to a maximum of £70,000.
- iii) This pledge to expire on 31 December 2014; and
- iv) conditions be formally drawn up to include staged payments geared to initiation and completion of stages of building that includes public access to shower and toilet facilities.

59. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 14 MARCH 2014

The Board received and noted the contents of the draft Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee dated 14 March 2014. (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

60. HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services summarising the incidents and events in the Harbour since 10 January 2014 (Item 7 in the Minute Book). A supplementary report was tabled summarising boat fires and completed works on the River.

The report was introduced by the Marine Director and Members heard about the fires on 31 March and collaboration with the Environment Agency, Hampshire Fire & Rescue, HM Coastguard and RNLI Calshot on steps taken to mitigate environmental and property damage (water pollution and sinking).

The Board heard that these incidents were good examples of multi-agency response to incidents on the River. Both incidents had been reported to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and, although there were no personal injuries, the Marine Director agreed to check if the Marine Accident Investigation Bureau (MAIB) would hold investigations.

Members agreed with Cllr Latham to record the Board's thanks to the Authority's staff for their unstinting commitment to keeping the River safe during the prolonged period of severe winter weather and tidal conditions.

The Designated Person highlighted key points from the Safety Audit report and the Chairman directed Officers to act on the management of dry-side risks (paragraph 8 of the report) and completion of a multi-agency exercise (non pollution) during 2014.

The Board noted the Designated Person's assurance of robust compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the report and the conclusions of the Designated Person's Safety Audit for 2013/2014.

61. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services providing an update on issues in the Harbour including asset enhancement projects currently underway (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Board Members were told of proposed projects (i) new river navigation lights (aids to navigation); (ii) River Hamble Games; (iii) sacrificial anode research,

and the progress of the Hamble Jetty pontoon; Warsash Slipway; and Hamble Life Boat.

Members endorsed the purchase of new GPS synchronised lights (aids to navigation) as the new technology would enhance safety for vessels entering and leaving the River. The Marine Director noted suggestions about siting additional GPS synchronised lights on the starboard-hand buoys in the lower reaches of the River.

The Marine Director told the Board that the River Hamble Games 2014 had attracted support from Hampshire County Council's Olympic Legacy fund; Eastleigh Borough Council and many local businesses. Members agreed to support the Games as per the total value of the appendix schedule (£2,600).

Members noted the production of the new Visitor Guide and the proposed extension to Hamble Jetty (if approved) would not be carried out until adjacent works at the Royal Southern Yacht Club are completed, on the grounds of safety of navigation.

Mr Jobson proposed and Mr Moody seconded a contribution of £5,000 per annum for three years for PhD research on the dissolution and management of sacrificial anodes, indicating that environmental, commercial and recreational benefits should be in mind as the research progressed.

A Member asked for consideration to be given to setting a condition on the colour of replacement piles where these featured in Harbour Works Consent applications so they merged more subtly into the River's vista.

It was noted that Members had discussed the position viz the Hamble Life Boat earlier in the meeting. (Minute 58 above refers.)

The Board RESOLVED to:

- i) support the procurement of new-style aids to navigation (lights) for the River entrance piles (£4,500);
- ii) award a grant of up to £2,600 to the River Hamble Games 2014;
- iii) support part-funding of £5,000 per annum for the three year period of the PhD project on sacrificial anodes; and
- iv) note the remainder of the report.

62. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between December 2013 – early February 2014 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The report was summarised by the Environment Manager and Members noted the Authority's membership of and active participation in the steering group for the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood & Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

Following the MCA's successful audit of Port Waste Management, all the RHHA sites along the River would hold a copy of the updated and approved Plan.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the report.

63. REVIEW OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE COLLECTION OF COMMERCIAL HARBOUR DUES

The Board received the report of the Directors of Corporate Resources and Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the review of the Memorandum of Understanding on the collection of Commercial Harbour Dues (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

Members were reminded the MoU documented a long-existing process for assessing Harbour dues for vessels afloat and provided clarity for the collection of due for vessels kept ashore. A review of its operation would be included as part of the annual round of fee levels.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted and endorsed the continued application of the Memorandum of Understanding.

64. REVIEW OF THE AUTHORITY'S BUSINESS PLAN

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the Authority's Business Plan (item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director who supported the proposals from the Management Committee. In addition, it was agreed to insert references to (i) the Warsash Slipway project; (ii) sacrificial anodes PhD research; (iii) replacement aids to navigation (lights); and (iv) SEMS and SSSI designated sites at Item 9 (Environment).

Members noted that recurring actions had their review dates revised and non recurring items were removed from the Plan on their completion.

The Board RESOLVED:

to accept the proposed revisions and additions from the Management Committee and the Board for incorporation into the Business Plan.

65. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services anticipating future business items of the River Hamble

Harbour Management Committee and Harbour Board (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The Board were told of possible harbour works consent applications and the Marine Director agreed to incorporate into the December-January cycle the joint review of the Strategic Vision by the Harbour Board and Management Committee.

RESOLVED

The Board note the report.