

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
held at Warsash Sailing Club on 27 June 2014

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor S. D. T. Woodward

Vice-Chairman:

a Councillor Rob Humby

Councillors:

a G Burgess

p M.G. Cooper

p P Fawkes

p S Cully

p. D Harrison

p. F Pearce

p. A W Rice TD

p. G Ringrow

p. A Gibson (Substitute)

Eastleigh Borough Council

p Councillor Suzy Hamel

Fareham Borough Council

a Councillor T. M. Cartwright

Winchester City Council

a Councillor Victoria Weston

p Councillor R Sanders (Substitute)

Associated British Ports

a Captain Martin Phipps

Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs

p Mr David Le Mare

British Marine Federation

a Nicola Walsh

Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association

p Mr. R. Boissier

Berth and Mooring Holders Representative

a Mr D. O'Malley

Royal Yachting Association

38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rob Humby and Cllr Trevor Cartwright, Dermot O'Malley; from Captain Martin Phipps of Associated British Ports, Nicola Walsh and from Cllr Vicky Weston (Winchester City Council).

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter 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 was 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 whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Code.

Mr Le Mare declared an interest by reason of being a Mooring or Berth Holder on the River Hamble and as a member of local yacht and sailing clubs. Mr Boissier declared an interest as a Marina owner.

Cllr Hamel declared a pecuniary interest as a Member of the Hamble River Sailing Club together with a non-pecuniary interest as a Committee Member of the 2014 River Hamble Games. Cllr Sanders declared an interest as a Member of the Royal Southern Yacht Club. Various Members declared their membership of the Royal Yachting Association as a non pecuniary interest.

40. MINUTES

Members agreed to insert reference (Minute 27 refers) to Mr Pritchard's Chairmanship of the River Hamble Combined Clubs as a non pecuniary interest.

The Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee meeting held on 14 March 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

41. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Andrew Gibson, Conservative Substitute Member for Cllr Rob Humby and Cllr Sanders, Substitute Member for Cllr Vicky Weston.

Anne Hibbert was thanked for her contribution to the financial management of the Hamble Harbour Authority and Jennifer Wadham was welcomed as her successor.

42. DEPUTATIONS

There were no Deputations.

43. HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding incidents and events in the Harbour from 18 March 2014 together with a tabled supplementary report of events to 25 June 2014 and a verbal report of a two-yacht collision on Thursday 26 June.

Members were told the alleged generator theft referred to in the supplementary report has been resolved.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

44. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) on current issues.

The report was introduced by the Marine Director, summarising the progress of projects under way on the River.

Warsash Slipway works' application was with the Environment Agency for consideration and if successful would progress to the other permission-granting bodies. Members would be kept advised of progress through this report.

The Hamble Jetty planning application to Eastleigh Borough Council had been withdrawn from the Local Area Committee Agenda by the Planning Officer. The Marine Director confirmed that pre-application discussions had occurred. It had been believed that the reservations expressed around safety issues had been resolved, therefore withdrawal of the item at short notice had not been expected. Members discussed the possible rationale for not accepting the guidance/recommendation from the statutory Harbour Master. The Committee discussed Officer attendance at the relevant Local Area Committee meeting and it was agreed that the Marine Director should consider delegating attendance to another Officer if attendance was required.

HMS/Wi-Fi – it was confirmed that the ePoS facility would be in use shortly and similarly the e-Harbour facility, connected to the County Council's IBC, should enable electronic invoices for Harbour Dues etc to be possible in October.

Sound System – The Chairman indicated he was strongly in favour of a facility for use by the Management Committee and following discussion Members agreed that further inquiries should be made to increase the number of microphones from 4 (in the proposal) to 10. Members were told the cost of providing an increased number of microphones was likely to require other sound equipment and not be limited to the cost of additional microphones. The Marine Director confirmed there was no delegated authority to incur this expense as it was not an item in the Authority's Budget.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and to advise the River Hamble Harbour Board to proceed with the procurement of a sound system, subject to funding being identified.

45. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Environment and Development Manager and summarised environmental management between March and May 2014.

Members were very pleased to learn of the progress made with the Highways Agency with regard to increasing pressure for improved drainage arrangements at the M27 bridge into the Estuary, for which Members had long campaigned.

The Environment Manager was encouraged to forge links with Officers of the Keyhaven and Lymington Nature Reserve where appropriate in respect of the protection and management of the River's saltmarshes.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

46. RIVER HAMBLE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/2014

The Committee considered the report of the Directors of Corporate Resources and Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) in respect of the final management accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014.

Members were told detailed monitoring of the 2014/2015 budget was about to commence with the ending of the first quarter and as far as it was known, there were no unexpected items of expenditure likely to arise in the analysis.

Implementation of the upgraded Harbour Management System was likely to lead to savings on postage and stationery, albeit dependent on take-up of the on-line payment facility by River users.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and submit to the River Hamble Harbour Board with its recommendation for approval.

47. REVIEW OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY ASSET ENHANCEMENT AND REPLACEMENT RESERVES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the projects funded by the Asset Enhancement Reserve (AER) and Asset Replacement Reserve (ARR) (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

Members were reminded the AER was established from the sale of midstream mooring piles to the Crown Estate and its purpose was to enhance the Harbour's facilities to benefit as many River users as possible..

Members received a verbal update on the progress of the Hamble Lifeboat Station with the Parish Council and discussion around the design for shower/WC facilities that encompassed use by disabled visitors/sailors.

The Marine Director outlined a suggestion for an enhanced tender berthing project at the Harbour Master's Jetty-Fisherman's Pontoon in response to frequent requests for more tender spaces. Problems with the existing Warsash sewage pump-out system were also highlighted. The proposal as per the drawing in the appendix would provide shower/WC facilities for visiting and resident sailors; additional berthing and an upgraded sewage pump-out.

Members debated the estimated capital and operational costs of the project with its potential usage, noting that development of the existing toilet block (adjacent to the Passage Lane car park, owned by Fareham Borough Council) was another option to be considered.

The potential of regeneration of Hacketts Saltmarsh through the re-use of dredged material, if found to be appropriate, was widely supported with Members noting its contribution to biodiversity (invertebrate and wading bird habitats); various international environment site status and having the highest rate of carbon capture of all habitats. Members noted that marine operators expressed an interest in such a scheme and may provide additional funding.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and to recommend to the River Hamble Harbour Board

- (i) to commission further detailed work for improvement of tender berthing facilities at the Harbour Master's Jetty-Fishermen's Pontoon and the possible provision of WC/shower facilities and or their inclusion in the existing facility at Passage Lane (FBC); and
- (ii) the consideration of a feasibility project for the use of dredged material to regenerate the River's saltmarsh.

48. PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL FORUM – 26 MARCH 2014

The Committee considered the report of the proceedings of the River Hamble Authority Annual Forum.

Members discussed Mr Clark's proposal to engage consultants to conduct a desk-top review of existing environmental reports regarding the River and to facilitate a pilot project for the re-use of dredged material from the River. Members were told similar schemes already existed at Chichester Harbour and Lymington and Officers were encouraged to draw on that experience and resource.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and to recommend to the River Hamble Harbour Board that

- (i) consideration be given to conducting a review of existing information and reports on the environmental impact of dredging and on saltmarsh erosion in the River, and to facilitate a pilot project to determine the feasibility of the re-use of dredged material from the River.

49. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book) with regard to the future business items for the Committee and Harbour Board agendas.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.