

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at RAF Yacht Club, Hamble-le-Rice on Friday 18 July 2014 at 10am

PRESENT:

Hampshire County Council

Councillors:

- p K Evans (Chairman)
- p P Latham
- p K House

Independent Members

- p Ms N Hiorns
- p Mr D Jobson
- a Mr C Moody

Marine Director

- p D Evans

66. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

67. 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.

68. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 4 April 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

69. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed the Designated Person, Captain Mark Capon to the meeting.

He thanked Anne Hibbert for her contribution to the Harbour Authority's financial management and welcomed her successor, Jennifer Wadham.

70. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

71. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE on 27 JUNE 2014

The Board received and noted the contents of the draft Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee dated 27 June 2014. (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

72. 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 18 March 2014 together with a supplementary update to 17 July 2014 (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The report and supplement were introduced by the Marine Director.

A failure to report a collision had resulted in a formal written warning to the skipper/owner under byelaw no 9.

The Designated Person questioned the landing of the injured sailor at Hamble when the specified landing was the Harbour Master's Jetty, Warsash. The Marine Director indicated Warsash had been directed by HM Coastguard at Lee-on-the-Solent but the yacht's skipper had chosen to berth at Hamble, hence the delay in meeting the ambulance. The Designated Person confirmed he was otherwise happy with compliance with marine safety procedure in the circumstances.

Members were reminded that Hamble Parish Council had a byelaw prohibiting swimming in the River around Hamble Jetty hence the mention at para 1.3 of the Patrol attending at Hamble jetty.

The Hamble River Games had taken place on 12 July. The Marine Director read to Members a very complimentary email from a family which had competed, noting the arrangements and quality of the event. The Chairman endorsed the writer's thanks to the Harbour Master and volunteers for making the Games a success again.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

73. 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 the progress with projects at Warsash slipway and Hamble Jetty. The Marine Director confirmed Eastleigh Officers had indicated a recommendation of approval of the Hamble Jetty project to the forthcoming Local Area Committee on 21 July 2014.

The Harbour Management System upgrade would enhance harbour dues collection from day sailors as all the electronic devices afloat are synchronised to record transactions as they occurred on the River.

The Board noted the Management Committee's recommendation to proceed with the purchase of a sound system subject to funding being identified. Further quotations were obtained to provide up to 10 microphones for meetings. Members were given the new figures for 5 units and 10 units and it was proposed to trial 5 units in the first instance.

Some Members were not in favour, citing a failure to demonstrate value for money or giving consideration to transferring the meeting venue to Fareham Borough Council or Winchester where suitable sound equipment was available. Members also queried whether the County Council already had portable equipment suitable for use at offsite meetings.

The Chairman reminded Members, the Board had previously agreed the benefit of holding meetings close to the River to promote contact with River users and the maritime services sector. He also indicated a willingness to explore potential corporate funding of offsite equipment suitable for use by the Authority's Committees.

On the basis of the discussion, a vote was held on the proposal to purchase sound equipment. With two Members in favour, and three against para ii) of the Recommendation the Board RESOLVED:

- i) to note the contents of the Marine Director's Report on Current Issues;
- ii) not to authorise the procurement of a sound system as set out in the report.

74. 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 March 2014 – May 2014 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The report was summarised by the Environment Manager and Members noted the continuation of the ABP capital dredge and its monitoring by ABP's consultant and the Harbour Authority's Officers. The Environment Member asked about the Dredge's effects on River turbidity and it was confirmed the live

data was being reviewed by Officers viz the levels of suspended solids in the River. To date, nothing of concern was observed, though the Dredge's widening work might have a different impact on the River.

Members noted the continuing efforts by the Authority's Officers, HEP and HFRS to convince the Highways Agency of the higher level of potential pollution risk and the need to revise/improve the drainage arrangements of the M27 bridge.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

75. RIVER HAMBLE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2013/2014

The Board received the report of the Directors of Corporate Resources and Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the final accounts 2013/2014 (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Corporate Accounting Manager, highlighting to Members a surplus of £7,500 after the agreed contribution to the ARR of £35,000; together with the budget variances shown in the Appendices.

Members were told that the Authority's finances remained substantially sound despite unbudgeted costs incurred resulting from the St Jude and St Valentine's Days storms and high tides in 2013/2014.

It was confirmed that the figures for meeting costs were those directly attributable to the Harbour Authority's meetings and not a proportion of central, whole-organisation costs.

Rent and Rate variations were identified to be a one-off accounting adjustment and the commencement of the rental of the Stone Yard workshop part way through 2013/2014. Similarly, the variation from budget for IT expenditure reflected the phased implementation of the harbour management system and a discount on the total cost.

Members agreed to receive a report on the management of the Asset Replacement Reserve in the next 12 month cycle.

The Board RESOLVED to approve the report.

76. REVIEW OF PROJECTS FUNDED FROM RESERVES

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the projects funded from the Asset Replacement Reserve (ARR) and Asset Enhancement Reserve (AER) (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director. Members noted the progress and completion of projects from both Reserves, particularly that of Smartwater; the anode study at the University of Southampton to commence in September 2014 and the Hamble Life Boat Station. The configuration of the project's

shower/WC facility was reported as proposed as two showers with a disabled toilet (disabled access using a Radar key) and three WCs (female/male/unisex) including baby changing facilities.

Members discussed the undesirable visual impact and economic viability of the design adding shower/WC facilities to an upgraded sewage pump out system in the outline concept for improving Warsash Jetty (Para 3.3b).

It was acknowledged there was merit in linking the sewage pump out system to the extended berthing facility but Members were not enthusiastic about taking on longer term maintenance of shower/WC facilities before exploring the development of the existing Passage Lane facilities with Fareham Borough Council, and similarly no further involvement of consultants.

Members supported the idea of a project to re-use dredged material, and stressed there was no requirement at this stage to engage consultants to review existing data (Para 3.3c).

The Board RESOLVED to note the report and to authorise

- (i) the linking of the Fishermen's Pontoon and Harbour Master's Jetty (Warsash) to provide additional tender berthing;
- (ii) discussions with Fareham Borough Council to achieve improved WC/shower facilities in the locality of Passage Lane car park and the Harbour Master's Jetty; and
- (iii) further research (e.g. desktop review of datasets and studies) into the potential for re-use of dredged material to inform a longer term project to investigate the feasibility of beneficial re-use to regenerate the River's saltmarsh.

77. PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL FORUM

The Board received the report of the Annual Forum held on 26 March 2014 (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director and discussion (Minutes 74 and 76 above) continued about the proposed project to reuse dredged material in the renewal of the River's saltmarsh. The Environment Member indicated a desktop review of existing datasets and studies (both south coast and national locations) would be useful to assist in identifying what was needed if the involvement of consultants arose. They also indicated a willingness to support the preliminary work conducted by Officers. There was support from the Designated Person.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

78. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board received a report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services anticipating future business items of the River Hamble Management Committee and the Harbour Board (item 13).

At a Member's request it was agreed to include a review of the Strategic Vision in April 2015.

A Member requested the inclusion of the next date of meetings to be added to Agendas.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.