

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at Warsash Sailing Club on Tuesday 23 September 2014 at 2pm

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

79. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mr C Moody.

80. 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 and, having regard to 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 Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 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

Mr Jobson declared memberships of four sailing and yacht clubs and as the holder of a midstream mooring whilst Mr David Evans also declared honorary memberships of three sailing and yacht clubs and as a midstream mooring holder.

81. MINUTES

A Member asked about the progress of the proposed Passage Lane WC/Shower facilities (Minute 76 (ii) in the Minute Book) and it was reported

that Cllr Cartwright had contacted Officers at Fareham Borough Council to explore how the Harbour Authority and the Borough Council could collaborate towards improved public facilities.

Progress on the re-use of dredged material (Minute 76 (iii) in the Minute Book) was reported. A briefing note would be prepared outlining the issues, objectives and possible options. It was intended to convene a meeting of experts to discuss the way forward. The Board could expect to receive a briefing note at its November meeting with the report on the outcome of the meeting of experts being added to the Board's work programme for January 2015.

It was noted the Review of the Authority's Strategic Vision had been added to the Board's business for January 2015 (Minute 78 in the Minute Book).

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 18 July 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

82. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

83. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

84. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE on 5 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Board received and noted the contents of the draft Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee dated 5 September 2014. (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Members were asked to note Minute 56 of the Management Committee's meeting together with its resolution and recommendation concerning the Hamble Jetty when considering the item in the Marine Director's Current Issues report.

85. 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 July 2014 together with a supplementary update between 7 and 22 September 2014 (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The report and supplement were introduced by the Marine Director.

Swimming off Hamble Jetty (3.2) remained a concern for Members who were aware the Byelaw for this location was established and enforced by Hamble Parish Council. Members were told that access to the River for swimming

was possible from elsewhere off the shoreline although it was not encouraged at the Fishermen's and Warsash Jetties for safety reasons.

It was noted the yachts mentioned at paragraphs 3.19 and 3.20 were the same and reference to para 1.2 was an error. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency had attended and following a safety inspection and advice, the yacht had returned to its mooring where it would remain until essential maintenance had been carried out.

The Trinity House audit of aids to navigation had highlighted the faded colour of the red piles at the River's entrance. It was confirmed that a full report would be presented at the November meeting.

Later in the meeting, a Member raised the use of kill cords following recent observations on the River. The Marine Director indicated that the River's Patrol Officers had no powers to require their use but did promote them when found not to be worn.

The Chairman invited the Designated Person to raise any aspect of compliance with water user safety and the Port Marine Code. Captain Capon suggested, and Members generally agreed, that the inquiry findings synopsis from the Padstow 2013 incident should be re-emphasised and circulated more widely to River users.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

86. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

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

Members discussed at length the options concerning the Hamble Jetty, noting the recommendation from the Management Committee.

The summarised reasons for refusal were (i) the proposed extension was sited within a mooring restriction area and (ii) the extension would result in a loss of open river to the detriment of its character and appearance, and the enjoyment and safety of other River users.

Members recalled their original purpose for this project was to extend the recreational and social amenity facility to the wider public and to complement the planned toilet and shower facilities at the Hamble Lifeboat Station.

Members expressed a preference for further Member/Officer dialogue with the Local Area Committee to better understand the reasons for rejection. Having received a synopsis of legal advice to the Authority, and without prejudice to those discussions, Members felt they should not give up a right of appeal and wished to reconsider the matter of the remaining options (b) and (c) at the November meeting.

There was no wish from Members to 'take no further action' nor to 'transfer the Authority's interest to a third party' (options a) and d)).

The Marine Director confirmed the Board would consider the Harbour Works Consent application for improvements to the Warsash Slipway at its November meeting.

Members noted the County Council's funding for portable microphones together with their availability for the Harbour Authority's meetings.

A verbal report on the progress of the Hamble Lifeboat Station project was given to Members and they were agreeable to further extend their pledge to match Hamble Parish Council's support for this project to 31 March 2015.

The Board RESOLVED to

- i) note the report
- ii) give further consideration to the Hamble Jetty project options at its November meeting and
- iii) extend its pledge to match Hamble Parish Council's support for the Hamble Lifeboat Station to 31 March 2015.

87. 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 mid-June and mid-August 2014 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Environment Manager who confirmed the PhD anode research project was expected to begin shortly with remaining funding secured and a suitable graduate student assigned to the research.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

88. RIVER HAMBLE STATUTORY ACCOUNTS 2013/2014

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

The report was introduced by the Principal Accountant and the need for the statutory accounts' presentation to the Board for approval was explained. It was confirmed that the figures used were the same as those in the management accounts, with differences in allocation to item headings to meet the requirements of statutory accounts.

Members were asked to note the value of current assets at £788,760 and that with its level of financial operation no chargeable external audit of the Harbour Authority's finances was required.

A Member queried the absence of the grants to the River Hamble Games and the Hamble Lifeboat Station as charitable donations in the accounts. It was explained these were made after the 2013/14 financial year, and therefore would be included in the 2014/15 annual accounts. The Principal Accountant agreed to check whether the grant to the River Hamble Games should be classed as a charitable donation.

In approving the statutory accounts, Members requested that, if possible, a single format be compiled that met the requirements for both management and statutory accounts in the future.

The Board RESOLVED to approve the statutory accounts 2013/2014 as presented.

89. HARBOUR DUES 2015

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the rates of Harbour Dues to be levied during 2015. (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director proposing an increase of 1.5% consistent with the Consumer Prices Index. It was noted that the Crown Estate had published its rates for 2015 that represented a 3% increase.

The Chairman told Members that Mr Moody had indicated he was against an increase.

The differential in the residential and commercial rate was noted by a Member, and the Marine Director, whilst not agreeing with the interpretation, confirmed that Marina operators retained a 20% handling charge of the Harbour Dues collected from dry sailors on behalf of the Harbour Authority.

The Board RESOLVED to approve an increase of 1.5% in the rates of Harbour Dues payable for 2015.

90. 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 12 in the Minute Book).

It was agreed to include Re-use of Dredged Material at the Board's November and January 2015 meetings.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.