

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at RAF Yacht Club, Hamble-le-Rice, on Friday, 21 November 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
- p Mr C Moody

Marine Director

- p D Evans

91. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

93. 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 and Mr David Evans indicated their interests were unchanged since the last meeting (Minute 80 refers).

94. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 23 September 2014 were confirmed as a correct record.

95. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced the dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel to Mr Moody on 20 October 2014 in respect of the disclosable pecuniary interest arising from the honorarium paid by the Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association, enabling Mr Moody to fully participate and vote in any business of the Board when he would otherwise be prevented from doing so.

Captain Mark Capon, the Authority's Designated Person, was welcomed to the meeting.

96. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

97. 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 23 September 2014 (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director, noting the limited number of incidents and events. Members were told that there was significant evidence of preparation by boat owners for the winter weather. An article summarising the lessons learned from the storms of December 2013/February 2014 had been published in the November edition of Practical Boatowner.

Members were told of the proposed remedial works to the port-hand navigation piles at the River's entrance for which Trinity House's agreement was being sought prior to implementation.

The Designated Person was invited to comment on river safety and he told the Board he had no concerns from the issues listed in the report. Members would receive the Designated Person's report on compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code at its next meeting.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

98. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director. Updates on each of the live projects were provided and Members told of the progress of incidental items of interest, such as the provision of showers and WCs in the new Hamble Lifeboat Station and the further discussion with the LAC Members and Officers of Eastleigh Borough Council about the proposed Hamble Jetty extension.

The Board noted planning permission had been granted by Hamble Parish Council for the new Hamble Lifeboat Station and the Parish Council was expected to authorise completion of the Building Agreement at its next meeting, thereby satisfying the conditions of the extension of the funding pledge made by the Board on 4 April 2014 (Minute 58 in the Minute Book).

The provision of floating key rings to remind users of the importance of kill cords was unanimously endorsed and Members were told it was hoped the local campaign would include Mrs Victoria Milligan. Members recalled that Mrs Milligan was one of those injured in the 2013 Padstow incident in addition to being the widow and mother of those who died. Officers were encouraged to achieve wider promotion of the initiative, nationally if possible, and the Marine Director indicated that this could be achieved through national bodies such as the UK Harbour Masters Association.

The Board supported leadership of the Beneficial Re-use of Dredged Materials project by the Authority, though recognised this might be influenced by funding contributions from the various proposed partners. The initial meeting of partners should enable a further report to the Board at its meeting in Spring 2015.

The Board RESOLVED to note and endorse the various actions and next steps in the report and the briefing note.

99. HARBOUR WORKS CONSENT – WARSASH SLIPWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of an application for Harbour Works Consent for improvement works to Warsash Slipway (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Members noted this was the Authority's own application for consent as part of the project's progress through the consents and approvals process and the merits of the project were not for consideration in reaching a decision. The criteria for decision-making was limited to navigation safety; compliance with the Habitats Regulations. However reservations were expressed about the estimated project cost and potential costs of maintenance if the current design was implemented.

The Board acknowledged it was not making a decision in respect of the project's implementation and the Chairman indicated that once a costs estimate from Hampshire County Council's Engineering Consultancy had been obtained, there would be an opportunity to debate the merits of proceeding with the project, subject to all other consents and approvals being in place.

Members noted the Harbour Master's reservation concerning the possible wave action on the artificial beach and the unknown maintenance costs that might result.

Members voted in respect of the recommendation in the report which was carried (For: 3; Against: 2; Abstention: 1).

The Board RESOLVED to grant Harbour Works Consent for the Warsash Slipway project subject to the following conditions:

- i) that works are completed within 3 years from the date of the approval granted by the Harbour Board;
- ii) the proposed construction must be undertaken in a suitable way to minimise disturbance to over wintering birds, ensuring best practice is in place for operating machinery to reduce unnecessary noise, in order to minimise noise disturbance to overwintering birds (an interest feature of the Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites) that use the area between October and March inclusive;
- iii) that any coatings/treatments on the materials used are suitable for use in the marine environment and are used in accordance with best environmental practice. Environment Agency guidelines must be followed and all reasonable precautions undertaken to ensure no pollutants enter the water body;
- iv) all equipment and debris associated with the works must be removed from the foreshore upon completion of the works; and
- v) all operations associated with the works must be carried out in such a way as to give rise to as little damage as reasonably practical to the Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). This includes restricting vehicles movements within the SAC to a minimum. The site must be restored to its former condition so far as is reasonably practicable, if any such damage to the SAC does occur.

100. 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 9 in the Minute Book)

The Chairman invited Board members to attend the Management Committee's meetings on 12 December and 13 March when briefing presentations on the progress of the projects by the Joint Clubs (RStnYC and RAFYC) and Swanwick Marina were proposed.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.