

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at Warsash Sailing Club, on Friday 12 December 2014

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor S. D. T. Woodward

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Rob Humby

Councillors:

p G Burgess

p M.G. Cooper

a P Fawkes

p S Cully

p. D Harrison

p. F Pearce

p. A W Rice TD

p. G Ringrow

Eastleigh Borough Council

p Councillor Suzy Hamel

Fareham Borough Council

p Councillor T. M. Cartwright

Winchester City Council

p Councillor Victoria Weston

Associated British Ports

a Captain Martin Phipps

Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs

p Mr David Le Mare

British Marine Federation

p Nicola Walsh

Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association

p Mr. R. Boissier

Berth and Mooring Holders Representative

p Mr D. O'Malley

Royal Yachting Association

p Mr J Selby

71. 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.

72. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Associated British Ports.

73. 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 O'Malley declared Personal Interests as a member of Royal Southern Yacht Club; Hamble River Sailing Club and as a Mooring Holder; Cllr Cartwright declared Personal Interests as a member of Warsash Sailing Club and the Royal Yachting Association; Ms Walsh declared a Pecuniary Interest as a Director of MDL Limited; Cllr Vicky Weston declared Personal Interests as a member of the Hamble River Sailing Club; Royal Yachting Association and as a mooring holder; Cllr Suzy Hamel declared a Personal Interest as a member of the Hamble River Sailing Club; Mr David Le Mare declared Personal Interests as a member of the RAF Yacht Club; the Royal Yachting Association and as a berth holder and Mr John Selby declared Personal Interests as a trustee of Warsash Sailing Club; member of the Royal Yachting Association and Association of Hamble River Yacht Clubs and Committee Member of the River Hamble Combined Clubs.

74. MINUTES

The Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee meeting held on 5 September 2014 were otherwise confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

75. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Mr John Selby to the meeting as the representative for the Royal Yachting Association and noted it was the final meeting for Mr David LeMare, representing the Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs. The Chairman noted that subject to confirmation at Full Council in February 2015, Mr Brian Mead would succeed Mr LeMare.

Officers were thanked for arranging the provision of microphones at the meeting.

76. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation was received from Mr Colin Brookes on behalf of the River Hamble Mooring Holders Association in respect of Item 10 on the Agenda (Budget).

Mr Brookes' deputation focussed on the allocated funds held for projects in the Reserve accounts; he expressed concern at the possible deficit and/or financial difficulties that would follow if all projects were implemented at one time and proposed an opportunity to refund an identifiable surplus to mooring holders who had effectively provided the money through their payment of harbour dues.

He noted the Hamble Jetty extension had not received planning permission and urged full cost benefit analyses of the Warsash Slipway and Hamble Jetty Extension projects.

Mr Brookes was thanked for his deputation. The Chairman brought forward Item 10 on the Agenda for consideration by the Committee.

77. RIVER HAMBLE BUDGET 2014/2015 and 2015/2016

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources and Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Principal Accountant and Members were told of the Authority's current financial position (period 7) in the 2014/2015 budget and the proposed 2015/2016 budget.

It was confirmed the Authority had no obligation to allocate or use its income for particular projects or types of activity and operated a policy of transferring surplus funds to a Reserve on reaching specified levels. It was conceded that if all current projects were implemented from the Asset Enhancement Reserve, then it would run a deficit requiring the Harbour Board to consider a transfer from the Revenue Reserve fund. A formal risk assessment had not been conducted as financial and project management was deemed to be sufficient to demonstrate prudence such that the Board did not sanction projects unless it had confidence in the costs of implementation and fully understood potential future liability.

The Marine Director confirmed the cost of fendering was a maintenance matter in the revenue budget. As a result it was not suitable for allocation as an asset replacement and therefore funded from capital.

The cost of seaweed clearance at Warsash Slipway might be mitigated by the slipway project but the Marine Director opined public clearance was unsuitable because of the nature of other items of litter that accumulated in the weed.

Members heard from the Marine Director that in compiling or revising a project and its cost, there were “red lines” around personal and environmental safety.

The Marine Director reported to Members there had been approval for the Hamble Jetty Extension from Hamble Parish Council and the application would be resubmitted to Eastleigh Borough Council in 2015. The Warsash Slipway project had received Harbour Works Consent at the Harbour Board’s meeting on 21 November to enable the compilation of a detailed costing by HCC Engineering Department.

The Principal Accountant indicated there was a consistency in the levels of expenditure achieved over several years and when necessary, an approval of the Board could be sought to adjust budget elements. Further control was provided through the Management Committee’s scrutiny role.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee notes the report and recommends the outturn budget for 2014/2015 and the proposed budget for 2015/2016 for approval by the River Hamble Harbour Board.

78. HARBOUR MASTER’S REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding incidents and events in the Harbour from 21 November 2014.

The report was introduced by the Marine Director. There had been no incidents on the River since the report to the Harbour Board on 21 November (Appendix 1). Members were told this seemed to be a benefit of the “Lessons Learned” publicity given to preparing for adverse weather conditions following the December 2013/St Valentine’s Day 2014 storms.

Members also noted the conclusion of the Port Marine Safety Code Audit conducted by the Designed Person and questioned the Marine Director about swimming in the River and working from boat roofs.

The circumstances of the “Flying Phantom” prosecution of Clydeport Operations had led to the imposition of movement and escort restrictions on the River Hamble for large and heavy vessels. “Fog” and “dense fog” had been defined by reference to visibility from the Harbour Master’s Tower to Warsash Sailing Academy and the

Warsash Sailing Club Jetty respectively. These were noted to be different from the Meteorological Office's definition.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee notes the report.

79. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

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

The report was introduced by the Marine Director,

Cllr Cartwright and other Members expressed their disappointment at the progress of the Warsash Slipway Project and Members felt the Working Party should reconvene whilst the Board considered the merits of the project's implementation.

The Committee was concerned about the potential for ongoing maintenance costs of the beach component resulting from the effects of adverse weather similar to those experienced in 2013/2014 and the project's estimated overall cost.

Members noted the Board intended to consider a cost-benefit analysis once it had received a detailed cost estimate from HCC's Engineering Department. Harbour Works Consent granted by the Harbour Board on 21 November had been a requirement for the preparation of the estimate.

The Committee was reminded of its scrutiny function in relation to decisions of the Harbour Board. The Chairman invited Cllr Cartwright to reconvene the Working Party and Members were supportive of doing so.

Members were told of the completion of the Building Agreement between Hamble Parish Council and Hamble Lifeboat Station with the start date due to be January 2015. Members recalled the Harbour Board had pledged £70,000.

The Kill Cords key ring initiative and publicity was widely praised and Members were encouraged to share the idea with other Harbours of which they were members.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee notes the report and to reconvene meetings of its Working Party for the Warsash Slipway Project.

80. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

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

A Member asked about the extent of the ABP capital dredge. No widening activity had been reported and the Environment Manager agreed to investigate activity of channel widening at the western shelf.

Members were told the meeting of experts for the possible Beneficial Re-use of Dredged Material Project was scheduled for the end of January 2015.

To support the Environment Agency's work on compliance with designated Bathing and Shellfish Waters in the wider Solent, Members were asked to note the beneficial role of pump out facilities for vessels' sewage holding tanks. The current Hamble Jetty Extension project had no facility, the Board having rejected a suggested scheme (Minute 76 in the Harbour Board's Minute Book). Two pump-outs were already located on the River at Swanwick Marina and the Harbour Master's Jetty at Warsash.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee notes the report.

81. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director and the recommendation of an increase of 1.5% in fees for Harbour Works Consent and no change for commercial vessels' harbour dues was outlined.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee notes the report and advises the River Hamble Harbour Board to approve the proposed fees and charges and to advertise them.

82. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN AND STRATEGIC VISION

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director.

It was questioned why the Business Plan published online was titled "2011". The Marine Director agreed to check it was the current edition.

Members felt a single document that combined the Strategic Plan, Strategic Vision and Business Plan was desirable as it would enable Members and interested parties to "track and check" progress with implementation. Members were

reminded that the Business Plan was written after the compilation of the Strategic Plan and Strategic Vision and could be assured that this was a “live” document, regularly updated throughout the year.

There was general agreement to establish a Working Party to compile proposals to revise the documents and bring forward recommendations for consideration by the full Committee for recommendation on to the Harbour Board at its April 2015 meeting. The Working Party to comprise: Cllr Cartwright, Mr Boissier, Mr O’Malley with the Marine Director.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee establishes a Working Party to make recommendations towards the review of the Strategic Plan and Strategic Vision and notes the report.

83. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 13 in the Minute Book) with regard to the future business items for the Committee and Harbour Board agendas.

It was noted the meeting cycle for 2015/2016 had been circulated and the Committee would continue to meet on both sides of the River.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee notes the report.