

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at Royal Southern Yacht Club, Hamble-le-Rice, on Friday, 16 January 2015 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

101. 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.

102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

103. 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 David Jobson declared Personal Interests of: memberships of the Royal Southern Yacht Club; RAF Yacht Club; Royal Yachting Association and as a Midstream Mooring Holder.

Mr David Evans declared Personal Interests of: honorary memberships of the Warsash Sailing Club; RAF Yacht Club; Royal Southern Yacht Club; as a member of the Royal Naval Sailing Association and as a Midstream Mooring Holder.

104. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 21 November 2014 (Item 4 in the Minute Book) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

105. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Chairman announced that following this item, the Board would proceed to item 7 (Management Committee's minutes); item 6 (Deputations) and item 9 (Marine Director's Current Issues).

106. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 12 DECEMBER 2014

The Board received and noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee held on 12 December 2014 (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

107. DEPUTATIONS

The Chairman agreed to set aside Standing Order 12 on this occasion to allow an elected Member of another Authority to make a deputation.

The Board received a deputation from Cllr Trevor Cartwright MBE, of Fareham Borough Council and lead member of the Warsash Slipway Working Party formed by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee. Cllr Cartwright explained that he represented the views of the Working Party and members of the public who had the same concerns.

Cllr Cartwright summarised the remit of the Working Party and its recommendations to enhance the slipway's use, safety and management of the accumulation of seaweed (now regularly cleared).

He noted the compacted gravel beach proposal was now being questioned following the 2013/2014 winter weather and abnormally high tidal conditions experienced. He observed similar constructions elsewhere on the River had performed satisfactorily.

Cllr Cartwright compared and contrasted the project management cost of £40,000 on the £7,000,000 Daedalus Innovation Centre with those estimated by HCC Engineering in the Marine Director's report for the project.

He invited the Board to challenge the project's management costs; refer the project back to the Working Party for further consideration; and or authorise implementation of the proposal excepting the beach construction.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Cartwright for his Deputation.

108. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

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

The Chairman summarised his commitment to the Board at its last meeting to have a full consideration of the merits of the Warsash Slipway project following on from the granting of Harbour Works Consent.

Members were reminded of the project's purpose to improve launch and recovery at any state of the tide. The ABP Mer report had estimated the project's construction cost at £125,000; and HCC project management costs were estimated at £19,000. Of the project's construction cost, ABP Mer attributed £90,000 to the compacted beach construction, although the merits of its efficiency have been questioned following experience of the abnormal winter weather and high tide conditions through 2013/2014.

It was proposed that the project should not go ahead in its current form without reference back to the working party of the Management Committee, for further consideration with the original purpose in mind, though questioning the merits and need of the constructed beach.

Members agreed with the point raised by the Depute that costs associated with the management and supervision of the projected estimated by HCC Engineering seemed disproportionately high in relation to the construction cost.

The proposed design was felt to be "over-engineered" for its purpose and it was generally agreed that it should be affordable and simple.

Mr Jobson proposed a revised recommendation, seconded by Cllr Keith House which the Board supported unanimously (below at i))

Members also heard about the progress with the Hamble Lifeboat Station and the Hamble Jetty Extension. For the latter, a set of visual impact assessment photographs were reviewed and it was noted they would be submitted to progress the current application.

The Board RESOLVED:

- i) in the light of the costs now identified, the Board questions the proposed project design as a lasting solution and refers it to the Warsash Slipway Project Working Party for re-examination and finding of a practical and affordable solution to meet the project's purpose; and

- ii) to note the report's content about the Hamble Lifeboat Station and Hamble Jetty Extension.

109. 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 21 November 2014 together with an appendix of incidents and events since the Agenda was published. (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director, noting the substantive event to report was of the grounding of Hoegh Osaka on Bramble Bank on 3 January 2015 with subsequent re-floating and re-siting. The Board noted the incident had taken place outside of the Authority's jurisdiction but as members of the Tactical Coordination Group, its staff remained on alert to implement the Oil Spill Plan if a pollution incident was declared.

Members heard from the Designated Person in respect of his audit report concerning compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. Members discussed publishing the Code and its Guide to Good Practice on the Authority's website and wider dissemination. The Designated Person opined there would be no overall benefit in doing so, a focus on health and safety observance and compliance was more valuable.

The Marine Director indicated the importance of Notices to River Users for disseminating safety advice and highlighted the annual meeting 'Code of Conduct' meeting with Club Officers and any organisation planning River events as a means updating those who were new to managing such events on the River. The Harbour Master was rigorous in reviewing risk assessments and method statements in this regard to demonstrate compliance with the Health & Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and the Port Marine Safety Code.

The Board noted the Designated Person's assurance of compliance with the Code.

The distribution of the Kill Cords key ring to marinas and boatyards was reported as imminent with the endorsement of Victoria Milligan (Minute no 98 refers).

The Board RESOLVED to note the report and to receive and note the Designated Person's report.

110. ENVIRONMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Environment Development Manager who brought the Board up to date with a number of successful audits completed by the Authority.

Members were told of the current situation with regard to the River Hamble Safeguarding Agreement in respect of the ABP capital dredging activity.

Further details of the potential project for beneficial re-use of dredged material was reported together with Officers' continued interest in the Environment Agency's "Love Where you Sail" project and the ambition to achieve 100% increase in the use of pump out facilities by 2021. The Board noted the Hamble was not designated as a priority harbour for the Agency but nonetheless pump out was a significant issue as the Harbour currently had one operational facility at Swanwick Marina, at a cost to users of £40 per pump out.

Members recalled the Warsash facility was currently out of order with the outline proposal to include pump out facilities in a new toilet block in a linked Warsash Jetty-Fishermen's Jetty project rejected on aesthetic grounds when considered by the Board (No 76 in the Minute Book (July 2014)).

The Board received an assurance that the Oil Spill Contingency Plan was demonstrated as being fit for purpose in its operation whilst the Hoegh Osaka was in the Solent with the contractor, Adler & Allen on stand by and available within one hour of a pollution incident being declared by the Southampton Port Authority.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

111. RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR AUTHORITY OUTTURN BUDGET 2014/2015 AND FORECAST BUDGET 2015/2016

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and business Services and Corporate Resources (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Principal Accountant who summarised the Authority's financial position as at month seven for the 2014/2015 budget.

Transport and staffing costs were highlighted as the two elements of the 2015/2016 budget that brought about a proposed increase of £10,000 (1.7%) over the 2014/2015 budget.

Members were reminded of the operation of the Reserves policy and heard details of the current and anticipated use of those reserves in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

A Member asked about the difference in staffing costs figure listed in Appendix 1 from those cited in the report presented to the Management Committee on 12 December. It was explained Officers felt it appropriate to maintain the staffing budgets at the same level as for 2014/15 for prudence, with a potential underspend against this budget in 2015/16 due to a temporary staff vacancy.

The Board RESOLVED to

- i) note the outturn budget for 2014/2015
- ii) approve the forecast budget for 2015/2016; and
- iii) approve the transfer of £39,000 from the Revenue Reserve to the Asset Enhancement Reserve in accordance with the reserves policy.

112. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Board received 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. The Board was told Harbour Dues for commercial vessels would remain unchanged for 2015/2016. It was proposed to increase Harbour Works Consent charges by 1.5% consistent with Harbour Dues (for privately owned leisure vessels). Such increase, if approved, would take effect from 1 April 2015.

The Board also heard that a charge of £50+VAT was made for each Notice to River Users required in connection with each project and it was proposed to remain unchanged. It was further proposed to increase charges for discretionary services, such increase was broadly in line with inflation over the previous 12 months.

The Board RESOLVED to approve the proposed fees and charges and to authorise their advertisement on the River Hamble website.

113. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN AND STRATEGIC VISION

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Chairman who invited other Board Members to replace him in the discussions with the Management Committee's working party.

The Board agreed to consult widely with stakeholders consistent with the aspirations set out in the Strategic Plan's paragraph 5.1.

The Board RESOLVED to consider the Management Committee's proposals for reviewing the Strategic Plan and Strategic Vision and to consult stakeholders in the compilation of the documents.

114. 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 14 in the Minute Book)

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.