

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at RAF Yacht Club, Hamble-le-Rice on Friday 17 July at 10am

PRESENT:

Hampshire County Council

Councillors:

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

Independent Members

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

Marine Director

p D Evans

128. 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.

129. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Keith House. The Liberal Democrat Deputy Councillor Roger Price was also unable to attend.

130. 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; and as a member of the Royal Naval Sailing Association.

Councillor Keith Evans declared an Interest (in relation to Minute 138) as Executive Member for Planning and Development at Fareham Borough Council.

131. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 8 March 2015 (Item 4 in the Minute Book) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

132. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that David Evans, the Marine Director, was retiring on 20 July 2015. The Chairman thanked David for his contribution throughout his time in post and noted that, after eleven years in the role, the Harbour Authority was in a much better position as a result of David's input. These sentiments were supported by other Members of the Board.

133. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 13 MARCH 2015

The Board received and noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee held on 26 June 2015 (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

134. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations on this occasion.

135. 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 from 8 April 2015. (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Deputy Harbour Master, who reported that it had been a busy start to the period. It was noted that actions to address the incident outlined under section 3.16 were undertaken in accordance with appropriate safety procedures.

The Port Marine Safety Code Audit Summary was appended to the report and was presented by Captain Richard Eastman who attended in place of Captain Mark Capon. The Board were informed that the Audit, undertaken on 20 May 2015, had discovered no faults and that the River Hamble Harbour Authority remained compliant with the Port Marine Safety Code.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

136. MARINE DIRECTORS CURRENT ISSUES

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding issues currently under consideration by the Marine Director.

It was highlighted that, during the interim period between the 20 July 2015 (the retirement date of the current Marine Director) and the date when the successor would begin in post, powers to approve requests for Harbour Works Consent without reference to the Harbour Board would be delegated to the Deputy Harbour Master.

The Board were informed that the Harbour Authority's application for planning permission to extend the Hamble Jetty was refused by Eastleigh Borough Council's Local Area Committee on 25 June 2015. The Board heard that there was a firm view from local sailing clubs, members of the public and other organisations that no further facilities were required. It was confirmed, by the Chairman, that there would be no further proceedings to progress the Hamble Jetty extension.

An update was provided on the proposal to link the Fisherman's and Harbour Master's Jetties at Warsash. Planning drawings for the proposal were circulated to Board Members. It was noted that the revised proposal did not include plans for a floating toilet and shower block. It was also noted that discussion with Fareham Borough Council regarding upgrading the Passage Lane car park toilet facilities had not proven successful. The Board confirmed the previous agreement to proceed with this jetty extension/link. An update on status of the project will come to next meeting.

Members agreed a more formal review into the amenities available for visiting yachtsmen and it was suggested that this review could be added to the Board's work plan.

Following Members questions it was confirmed that discussion had taken place with the Fishermen with regards to moving their gate access. It was also confirmed that there were no issues with regard to swimmers and that all crabbing activities were closely monitored.

Discussion was held relating to the reinstatement of the pump out installation. It was highlighted that this would be something for future consideration and should be added to the work plan.

The Board were updated on the Warsash slipway improvements. The specification is currently being amended by Hampshire County Council's Engineering Consultancy. It was confirmed that, due to some costing elements and other issues identified, the specification had changed slightly from that which was originally outlined.

The Board RESOLVED:

- i. to proceed with application for the extension/link of Harbour Master and Fishermen's' jetties
- ii. to establish a review of river facilities for visiting yachtsmen
- iii. to note the remainder if the report

137. ENVIRONMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) summarising activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary during March, April and May 2015.

The report was introduced by the Environment and Development Manager who confirmed that final data analysis is underway following the completion of the 6 month post-dredge monitoring period for the ABP dredge of Southampton Water.

The Board received an update on plans to undertake a desktop study to assess the viability of using sediment management techniques to maintain or improve the saltmarsh or mudflats within the Hamble Estuary. It was highlighted that the desktop study would review the research being undertaken into sediment management techniques in other areas of the UK. Quotes to undertake the study had been received and the tender evaluation panel had selected a preferred bid.

The Board RESOLVED:

- i. to approve that the successful tenderer be contracted by Hampshire County Council to deliver the desktop study.
- ii. to note the remainder of the report.

138. PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL FORUM

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book) detailing the proceedings of the Annual Forum held on 23 March 2015.

It was noted that a synopsis of queries and responses arising from the Forum was appended to the report.

Discussion was held regarding recent communication with Fareham Borough Council and planning permission for dry stacks. It was noted that the Harbour Authority are not currently a formal consultee and it was suggested and agreed that action be undertaken to ensure Local Authority consultation with the Harbour Authority when appropriate. A Member raised that some dry stacks have a detrimental effect of the visual impact of the shoreline.

The Board RESOLVED:

- i. to note the report
- ii. to confer with Local Authorities regarding planning permission consultation with the Harbour Authority.

139. RIVER HAMBLE STATUTORY ACCOUNTS 2014/15

The Board received report of the Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced to Members by the Corporate Accounting Manager and highlighted a surplus of £39,128 after the agreed contribution to the Asset Replacement Reserve (ARR) of £35,000, and draws of £16,341 from the Asset Enhancement Reserve (AER) and £78,896 from the ARR to fund agreed projects.

Overall, it was confirmed that robust financial management has resulted in an improved position against the budget.

It was noted that the Board had previously approved the transfer of £39,000 from the Revenue Reserve to the AER at its meeting on 16 January 2015. Within the report, a further £49,300 was identified for transfer from the Revenue Reserve to the AER.

It was proposed that, due to the greater than anticipated reserves figure, this £49,300 be utilized to reduce Harbour Dues as opposed to adding them to the AER. Some discussion was held over this suggestion and it was agreed that the

Chairman would take forward this piece of work alongside County Council officers to assess possible options.

Members requested further information into the 'jetty charges' referred to on page 11 of Appendix 1. It was explained that this income is predominantly received from dry sail and dry stacks. The reduction in income from the financial year 2013/14 was due to the fact that no harbour dues are required to be paid for dry stacks on shore and dues for the waiting berths, where the boats are launched, were already paid.

Following Members queries in relation to the 'protective clothing' costs referred to on page 13 of Appendix 1 it was outlined that new staff members had joined the team early and their uniform and protective clothing expenditure had fallen into the previous financial year.

The Marine Director explained that the E-Harbours project, which was launched in 2002, is a management database which is soon to move to a web based platform. This would enable harbour dues and Crown Estate Licence fees to be paid online, mooring holders details could be updated online and an electronic point of sale system would also be introduced to enable card payments on the water.

A Member requested that the commitment to a charitable contribution to the Hamble Lifeboat be accrued within the statutory accounts.

Members congratulated the Marine Director on the improvements in the financial position of the Authority that he had overseen.

The Board RESOLVED:

- i. to approve the statutory accounts and management accounts as outlined within the report.
- ii. that investigation be undertaken into potential options for the £49,300 reserve following Members proposals as outlined above.

140. 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 in the Minute Book).

It was noted that the Harbour Works Consent (Brooklands Quay) item was to be tabled at the 25 September Board meeting.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.