

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at Warsash Sailing Club, Warsash, on Friday 15 January 2010.

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor S. D. T. Woodward

Vice-Chairman:
p Councillor Dr. R. J. Ellis

Councillors:

a F. Allgood
p Mrs C. A. Bailey
p A. Broadhurst
p M.C. Cooper

a C. Davidovitz
a A. D. G. Evans
p A. Gibson
a A. W. Rice, TD

Eastleigh Borough Council

p Councillor Mrs S. Ingram

Fareham Borough Council

p Councillor T. M. Cartwright

Winchester City Council

p Councillor Victoria Weston

Royal Yachting Association

p Mrs P. Dorothy

Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs

p Mr P. Middleton

British Marine Federation

p Mr M. Glanville (Deputy)

Associated British Ports

p Mr R. Blair (Deputy)

Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association

p Mr R. Boissier

Berth and Mooring Holders Representative

p Mr D. Jobson

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors F. Allgood, C. Davidovitz, A. Evans, A. Rice and Mr J. Eads and Captain P. Holliday.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or personal prejudicial interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, they should normally at the time of the debate declare their interest, and having regard to the circumstances described in paragraphs 9, 10, 11 and 12 of the County Council's Code of Conduct, consider whether to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 12 of the Code.

Councillors S. Woodward, C. Bailey and V. Weston all declared personal, non prejudicial interests by reason of their being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble, as did Mr. R. Boissier, Mrs P. Dorothy, Mr. M Glanville, Mr P. Middleton and Mr D. Jobson.

Councillors T. Cartwright and V. Weston, along with Mrs P. Dorothy, Mr D. Jobson and Mr. P Middleton, also declared personal, non prejudicial interests as members of Local Yacht or Sailing Clubs.

In respect of agenda item 6, relating to the River Hamble Select Committee's report, members of the Committee who had declared interests advised that their interest was both personal and prejudicial in so far as it related to discussion of harbour dues, where they were a harbour dues payer. All indicated that they would leave the meeting during the Management Committee's consideration of recommendations 1 and 2 from the Select Committee report. (These two recommendations related directly to the issue of harbour dues).

28. MINUTES

The Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee held on 23rd October 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

29. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman asked that his thanks and appreciation be formally placed on record to all the people who had helped produce the River Hamble Select Committee's report (agenda item 6).

He expressed particular thanks to the members of the Select Committee, to Warsash Sailing Club for their assistance in hosting the Select Committee's meetings, to the County Council Officers and other witnesses who had given evidence, to members of the public who had made depositions to the Select Committee or who had otherwise attended the Select Committee's public meetings and to Nick Eaton (Business Advice and Member support) for his help in drafting a report on the Select Committee's behalf.

30. **REPORT OF RIVER HAMBLE SELECT COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered the Select Committee's report (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Prior to commencement of debate on this item, the Chairman addressed a number of procedural issues. He reminded those Members of the Committee who had declared personal, prejudicial interests in relation to recommendations 1 and 2 that they were able to make a deputation, but would need to leave the Committee whilst debate on recommendations 1 and 2 took place.

The Chairman also stated that in considering the report, matters other than recommendations 1 and 2 would be dealt with first, to ensure maximum Committee participation. He would be making a deputation on those two recommendations himself, before leaving the room.

The Chairman briefly recapped on the reasons for establishing the Select Committee and explained the nature and format of its subsequent meetings. He was pleased to report that consensus had been reached on all of the Select Committee's recommendations and he reiterated his thanks to all who had played a part in the Select Committee's work. He asked the Management Committee to agree all the report's recommendations (from number 3 onwards). These recommendations were agreed without dissent.

At this point, Councillor S.D. T. Woodward vacated the Chair to make a deputation. Councillor R.J. Ellis took over as Chairman.

In making his deputation on recommendations 1 & 2 of the report, Councillor Woodward asked the remaining members of the Management Committee who had not declared interests to remember that the report's recommendations had received the Select Committee's unanimous support. He therefore asked that

recommendations 1 & 2 also be adopted. Councillor Woodward also advised that publicity would be given to the report so that the Select Committee report and the Management Committee's recommendations in respect of it would be known when the River Hamble Annual Forum was held. The River Hamble Harbour Board would consider the report at their meeting in March and if any of the recommendations agreed by the Board required County Council approval, they would be submitted to the earliest possible meeting of the County Council after the Board meeting in March.

Following Councillor Woodward's deputation and there being no other member of the Committee who had made a personal, prejudicial declaration of interest (see minute 28) asking to make a similar deputation, he and they left the room.

The remaining members of the Management Committee then debated and agreed recommendations 1 and 2 within the report.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the Select Committee's report (and as outlined in pages 8-15 inclusive) be endorsed for submission to the River Hamble Harbour Board.

31. RIVER HAMBLE BUDGET 2009/10 AND 2010/11

The Committee considered the report of the County Treasurer and Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 7 in the Minute Book). (NB: Councillor S. D. T. Woodward was in the Chair for the remainder of the meeting from hereon).

The County Treasurer advised that the 2009/10 financial year surplus was expected to be in the region of £96,300. He also advised that the 2010/11 budget could be reviewed throughout the year to reflect any decisions which the River Hamble Harbour Board made in respect of the Select Committee report and recommendations from the Management Committee.

In respect of the level of reserves, which were expected to be in the region of £670,196 at the end of the 2009/10 financial year, this was higher than required by the reserves policy but the level of reserves could be reviewed once a review of the Asset Replacement programme had been considered and the final accounts for 2009/10 had been produced. Provision for the procurement of aerial photographs had not been included in the draft budget but an item proposing their acquisition was included later on in this Agenda. If the Management Committee agreed their acquisition, funding was available.

The Marine Director advised that the Solent School of Yachting lease was not to be renewed, however negotiations were underway to renew a lease in respect of part of the site, i.e. the workshop and oil spill store. Whether there was any potential liability (and subsequent budgetary impact) for dilapidations at the Solent School of Yachting was being explored by officers from the County Council's Property, Business and Regulatory Services department.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and submitted to River Hamble Harbour Board for its approval.

32. **RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

The Marine Director advised that following the Port Marine Safety Code compliance audit undertaken on 18 December 2009, he had met with the County Council's Risk Manager to discuss a number of the issues raised in the audit. These issues were being actively pursued to minimise all risks to a level as low as was reasonably practicable.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

33. **MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES**

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

The Marine Director advised that the Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) had now received Royal Assent. He continued to pursue matters in relation to the spillage incident that took place on the M27 bridge on 10 November 2009.

The Marine Director confirmed that in relation to the possible acquisition of aerial photographs he would seek the involvement of commercial operators as a means to potentially mitigate the costs. He was, however, firmly convinced of the value of the information that aerial photographs would provide. As a result of previous provisions there was sufficient money in the Revenue Reserve to acquire such photographs.

In response to questions, the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs confirmed that if the Committee was minded to agree their purchase, the costs of procuring aerial photographs would be

charged to the revenue account. He would also investigate the feasibility of such photographs being placed onto the Harbour Authority's website.

The Marine Director also gave a brief update upon the Crown Estate Management Agreement and the financial arrangements associated with the Management Agreement.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee

(1) advise the Harbour Board to proceed with procurement of aerial photographs at the maximum cost of £8,500, to be funded from the 2009 Revenue Reserve and that

(2) the remainder of the report be noted.

34. **ASSET ENHANCEMENT – WAY FORWARD**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The Marine Director reminded the Committee that the Harbour Authority had £310,000 in the Asset Enhancement Reserve and that the Harbour Board had already agreed that this reserve should be set aside to improve the facilities and assets of the harbour for the benefit of users.

The Marine Director indicated that there were a number of options that could be considered in terms of generating ideas for use of the Asset Enhancement Reserve, including the option of holding a stakeholder workshop. If a workshop proposal were to be adopted a consultant could be engaged to both facilitate the workshop and also identify potential partners who could supplement the funds available within the Asset Enhancement Reserve.

The Committee strongly indicated that expenditure from the Asset Enhancement Reserve should be on capital projects which provided long term benefits rather than on items which required a significant ongoing revenue contribution. They noted that whatever ideas were generated, the Crown Estate would be one of the main consultees.

Committee Members expressed a variety of views in relation to the most appropriate way forward and indicated that further consideration should be given to how to generate ideas for use of the Asset Enhancement Reserve, potentially through discussions between both Management Committee and Harbour Board

representatives.

RESOLVED that :

- (1) formal consideration of the report be deferred;
- (2) members of the River Hamble Harbour Board be advised of the Management Committee's view that discussions should take place between Management Committee and Harbour Board representatives to help identify the most appropriate way forward;
- (3) any such discussions between Management Committee and Harbour Board representatives should consider not only the possibility of a workshop and how to identify options for use of the Asset Enhancement Reserve but also whether engaging a consultant/workshop facilitator was the best way forward.

35. **NAVIGATIONAL SAFETY CONSULTATION**

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

The Marine Director advised that following the summer 2009 consultation exercise that had been carried out, he was intending to rationalise the existing harbour authority risk assessments. In future, he was also intending that assessments should be based on broadly based, themed activities.

In response to questions the Marine Director confirmed that he would be consulting appropriately with the local sailing clubs re: the risk assessments that were applicable to them.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board be advised to

- (1) note the comments intended in the report,
- (2) approve the inclusion of more details about Hamble Harbour Radio in future newsletters and the Hamble Directory, and
- (3) initiate a re-appraisal of the dinghy and gig racing risk assessments.

36. **PROJECTED POPULATION TRENDS WITHIN THE PARTNERSHIPS FOR URBAN SOUTH HAMPSHIRE (PUSH) AREA AND POTENTIAL IMPACT ON THE DEMAND FOR PARKING AROUND THE RIVER HAMBLE**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture,

Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs advised that the demand for parking around River Hamble was difficult to quantify but the expected increase in the local population was almost certainly going to lead to an increase the demand for additional parking. Demand for parking in relation to access to the River Hamble was, however, not a constant all-year problem, with many water based activities being of a seasonal, or weather related, nature.

Committee Members noted with regret the limited availability of long-term parking on the Hamble side of the river and concurred with the view that a range of possible solutions needed to be considered.

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee:

1) recognises the general data summarised in the report, together with its limitations, as it may affect the issue of parking and river related activities in the Hamble area;

2) receives an update on the outcome of the review of the PUSH evidence when it is available;

3) supports the options set out in the Section 4 of the report being pursued wherever practicable, so as to identify possibilities for creating additional car parking capacity;

4) fully supports joint working by the riparain Local Authorities, private land owners and boat operators to maximise the effectiveness of car parking provision adjacent to the River Hamble.

37. **POSSIBLE RETENTION OF ONE PATROL BOAT – COSTS AND BENEFITS**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

Committee Members concurred with the view that the existing Patrol Boat should be traded in and that they saw no advantages for retention of one of the boats.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board be advised, that in the view of the Management Committee, both existing patrol boats should

be traded in as originally planned, on the basis of the costs of retaining one out where the potential benefits, and that a cheaper alternative is available.

38. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 14).

The Marine Director reaffirmed his recommendations outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Board be recommended to agree the fees and charges set out in the report and that once adopted, they should be advertised on the River Hamble website.

39. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 15 in the Minute Book).

The Committee noted that the expected list of reports could be affected by the Harbour Board's consideration of the River Hamble Select Committee report and the recommendations contained therein.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.