AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at Warsash Sailing Club, Warsash on Friday 7 January, 2011

PRESENT

Chairman:
p Councillor S. D. T. Woodward

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

Councillors:

p F. Allgood	p C. Davidovitz
p Mrs C. A. Bailey	a A. D. G. Evans
p A. Broadhurst	p A. Gibson
p M.G. Cooper	p 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

Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs

p Mr P. Middleton

British Marine Federation

p Mr M. Glanville (Deputy)

Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association

a Mr R. Boissier

Berth and Mooring Holders Representative

p Mr D. Jobson

Royal Yachting Association

p Mrs P. Dorothy

73. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor A. Evans, Mr R. Boissier (Premier Marinas Ltd), and Mr J. Eads (British Marine Federation).

74. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that, where they believed they had a personal or 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 and V. Weston declared personal interests by reason of their being Mooring or Berth Holders on the River Hamble, as did Mrs P. Dorothy, Mr. M. Glanville, Mr. P. Middleton and Mr. D. Jobson.

Councillors T. Cartwright, C Bailey and V. Weston, along with Mr. D. Jobson and Mr. P. Middleton also declared personal interests as members of local Yacht or Sailing Clubs.

Mr. M. Glanville declared a personal interest as an employee of the Marine Developments Ltd.

75. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee meeting held on 19 October 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76. **HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

Wendy Stowe, Deputy Harbour Master, presented the Harbour Master's report summarising the activities and events in the Harbour from 19 November 2010 (Item 6 in the Minute Book). The Deputy Harbour Master circulated a supplementary report giving an update on more recent events (Item 6(a) in the Minute Book).

The Deputy Harbour Master confirmed that the Police had made arrests following the incidents of theft and that prosecution was pending. The Committee was informed that unfortunately the CCTV in the area was of little help as the incidents occurred in the dark, when the CCTV was not effective. One Member felt that if the Harbour Office held details of all boats, including those moored in marinas, resolving incidents such as these would be easier.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

77. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 7 in the Minute Book) detailing the Marine Director's current issues.

The projects proposed for the Asset Enhancement reserve (in appendix 1) were outlined by the Marine Director and discussed by the Committee.

Project 1 Improved Safety signage on public slipways:

The Committee was generally of the view that improvements to safety signage, on the basis of consolidating existing signage, was welcome. The Marine Director explained that simple, pictorial signage would be the most appropriate, in addition to which information about harbour dues and charges could be updated. The Committee agreed to take this forward and requested examples of the pictorial safety signage.

Project 2 Tender storage and associated jetties and access, including improved disabled access:

Members supported the principle of increasing tender storage and felt that the alternative of a Harbour Authority run launch service was not desirable. The possibility of supporting extended service hours for the existing private water taxi service was questioned and it was agreed that the legal ability of the authority to do this should be investigated. It was noted that at Swanick the marina already has a project to increase tender storage.

There was some support for the concept of a dinghy and tender launching pontoon at Hamble but concerns were expressed regarding the proposed extension to Hamble Jetty and there was little enthusiasm for the latter.

Project 3 An expansion of school and/or youth group visits to the river:

Members noted that the RYA and the sailing clubs were already running sailing based schemes that were being taken advantage of by local schools. The cost of building new facilities was discussed and it was highlighted that Manor Farm already has facilities for school visits as well as water access and could potentially be used instead. The committee agreed that as alternative schemes and facilities were already in place, this project should not be taken forward.

Project 4 Funding for SSSI enhancements and/or footpath improvements:

Members were informed that a community action group in Warsash had begun action to repair the footpath in collaboration with Hampshire County Council. Members agreed that given the cost and planning permission requirements of maintaining the revetments, the community action had resolved this issue.

The committee considered the proposal to remove or relocate the intertidal moorings and agreed that this should only be considered as part of a wider plan for the river and therefore should not proceed at this time.

The Oyster reseeding scheme was outlined and it was explained that this would replicate a similar project in Chichester Harbour. Members agreed that it would be desirable to wait for evidence of success in Chichester before proceeding and therefore that this project should not proceed at the current time.

Members were informed that Hampshire Wildlife Trust had surveyed other areas of the coast in order to assess the extent of seagrass. A similar survey would benefit the River Hamble as it would potentially inform management decisions and the Strategic Plan. Members agreed that the survey could provide valuable information and supported expenditure at the lower end of the cost estimate range.

The Committee agreed that a photographic survey of the river banks would be a valuable resource and that this project should proceed. Members furthermore agreed that the leaflet was well received in the past and therefore should be re-printed.

The issues raised by car and trailer parking were discussed by the committee. It was explained that there are a number of insurance hurdles with regards to drive-sharing. However there were a number of websites, not specific to the river, but covering the area, through which people could make drive sharing arrangements. It was acknowledged that given the limitations of space, parking was a recurring problem with no obvious solution.

The proposed “Safety Plan for Marine Operations” (in appendix 2) was considered by Members. There was discussion around the ability to review incidents of navigational safety and the process for highlighting risk was clarified. It was:

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee advises the River Harbour Board to proceed with the asset enhancement scheme as outlined above.

That the Management Committee notes the position on car and trailer parking.

That the Management Committee advises the River Hamble Harbour Board to approve the Safety Plan for Marine Operations.

78. **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Community and Rural Affairs (Item 8 in the Minute Book) on issues relevant to the environmental management of the Harbour.

The Environment and Development Officer, Graham Horton, outlined the key details of the report to Members. There was particular interest in the Capital Dredge to be undertaken by Associated British Ports (APB). The Marine Director explained that the negotiations for this were underway and the details would be reported to the Management Committee when available. It was:

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee note the report.

79. **RIVER HAMBLE BUDGET 2010/11 AND 2011/12**

The Committee considered the report of the County Treasurer and the Director of Culture, Community and Rural Affairs (Item 9 in the Minute Book) on the Harbour budget for 2010/11 and 2011/12.

The key features of the budget were explained to Members and clarification was given on a number of points. In particular the reasons behind the increased cost of Public Jetties and Navigational Safety and the reduced costs of IT were explained. It was:

RESOLVED:

That the Management Committee note the report and recommend it to the River Hamble Harbour Board for approval.

80. **REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Community and Rural Affairs (Item 10 in the Minute Book) regarding a review of fees and charges applicable to the River Hamble.

The annual review of fees and charges was outlined to the Committee. There was some concern that the £30 late renewal charge would cost more in administration than it would raise in revenue. The Marine Director explained that this charge was a deterrent to discourage late payment. He confirmed that the number of late payers was very low and the administration cost of levying late payment penalties negligible. It was:

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Management Committee advises the River Hamble Harbour Board that the fees and charges set out in the report should be adopted and advertised on the River Hamble website.

81. **STRATEGIC AND BUSINESS PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Community and Rural Affairs (Item 11 in the Minute Book) on the draft Business Plan and Strategic Plan.

The revised Strategic Plan and Business Plan were presented to the Management Committee. It was confirmed that a map showing land holdings was still pending and that the Land Registry had provided a cost estimate of £1000 to provide the necessary information. Members were keen to see a greater emphasis on a long term strategic development plan for the river. It was acknowledged that the Harbour Authority was not the planning authority and was also not the land owner or developer. However it was felt that a strategic development vision should be developed to demonstrate the policy and direction of the Harbour Authority.

The status of the "Strategic Principles to Guide Development of the River Hamble" document, referred to in the report, was questioned. It was noted that the River Hamble Harbour Board had never formally adopted it. It was agreed that the status and relevance of the document should be investigated and reported to the Committee.

The impact of the recently published Localism Bill on the Harbour Authority was questioned. The Chairman felt that although there could be an impact, it was necessary to wait until the Localism Bill had passed into law before the Strategic or Business Plan was amended if that was required.

A modification to the Strategic Plan was identified: 7.1 (iv) and (x) should be combined in order that informing and consulting the public appear together.

The relationship with the Crown Estate and in particular the Management Agreement with the Crown Estate was discussed with relation to both the Strategic and Business Plans. It was confirmed that the Management Agreement was due to expire at the end of March 2012 and that the Select Committee had recommended negotiations to renew this should begin 12 months ahead of the expiry date. Members urged that re-negotiation of the Crown Estate Moorings Management Agreement should commence as soon as possible, and that the negotiators should also be mindful of the issues pertaining to the environmental lease of the Upper Hamble, and the costs borne by the Harbour Authority for carrying out a variety of environmental management tasks in that area.

The Business Plan was discussed and the situation regarding private pontoons on the river was clarified. The financial background to item 28 of the Business Plan was also explained to Members.

It was noted that the Business Plan was frequently referred to as the "action plan". It was therefore proposed and agreed that the Business Plan should be known henceforth as the Action Plan. It was:

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendments detailed above, the River Hamble Management Committee recommends that the River Hamble Harbour Board approves the River Hamble Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2011 – 2012 and beyond.

That the River Hamble Management Committee recommends to the River Hamble Harbour Board that a long term strategic vision be developed to set out the policy and direction of the Harbour Authority and to compliment the Strategic and Action Plans, and that a sub-group of the Management Committee should meet with the Chairman of the Board and Marine Director to progress this.

82. **CLAM DREDGING IN THE UPPER HAMBLE**

The Committee received and noted the report of the Director of Culture, Community and Rural Affairs (Item 12 in the Minute Book) with regard to recent incidents involving clam dredging in the Upper Hamble.

83. **FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Culture, Community and Rural Affairs (Item 13 in the Minute Book) with regard to the key issues anticipated to appear on future River Hamble Management Committee and Harbour Board meeting agendas. It was:

RESOLVED:

That the forward plan be noted.