

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at the Warsash Sailing Club, Shore Road, Warsash on 28 January 2011.

PRESENT:

Hampshire County Council

Councillors:

p K. Evans (Chairman)

p G. Hockley

p K. House

Independent Members

p Mr. T. Lovell

p Mr. C. Moody

p Dr. S. Tomson

Marine Director

p D. Evans

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members of the Board were present, but apologies for absence from the Assistant Director, Culture, Community and Rural Affairs were noted.

89. 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.

90. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 19 November 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising thereon:

Minute 64 - Proposed Harbour Office Staffing Structure

The Marine Director confirmed that appropriate special recognition payments would be made to those members of the Harbour Office team who had undertaken additional activities and responsibilities.

91. **RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 7
JANUARY 2011**

The Minutes of the meeting of the River Hamble Management Committee held on 7 January 2011, item 6 in the minute book, were considered and noted.

Arising thereon:

Minute 76 – Harbour Master’s Report

The Marine Director confirmed that holding details of all boats on the river was not practical or necessary as most boats can be traced to boatyards or marinas which already maintain up to date records that can be accessed in an emergency.

Minute 78 – Environmental Update

Members were informed that negotiations relating to the ABP capital dredge of Southampton Water were being conducted by Hampshire

County Council and the final agreement would be reported at a future meeting of the Harbour Board.

92. **HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT**

The Deputy Harbour Master presented the Harbour Master's report (Item 7 in the Minute Book) which outlined incidents from 19 November 2010. An annex to the report detailing events which had taken place since publication was tabled at the meeting.

It was confirmed that the vessel that had been stolen (paragraph 3.2 in the report) was a 22' Hunter yacht.

The dangers of cold weather were highlighted by the yacht (paragraph 3.15 in the report) that got into difficulties due to a failed stern gland, probably caused by cold weather damaging the rubber seal.

It was confirmed that CCTV data was being used in the case of the fisherman arrested for illegal fishing activities (paragraph 1.1 of the report appendix)

There was a brief discussion regarding the removal of an underwater obstruction near the Port Hamble fuel barge. It was noted that the cost of removal had been borne by the Harbour Authority, but that removal was the only option to ensure a clear passage for boats.

Accordingly it was resolved that the report be noted.

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

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 8 in the Minute Book), detailing current issues relating to the Harbour to Members.

Asset Enhancement Reserve:

The Marine Director outlined the projects described in appendix 1 of the report and in turn they were discussed by the Board, taking into consideration the minuted recommendations of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

Project 1: Improved Safety Signage. The Board Members approved this beneficial project and agreed that designs should be drawn up and circulated to the Harbour Management Committee and Board for comments. It was furthermore agreed that signage should be paid for from the 2010/12 Harbour Authority budget.

Project 2: Tender storage and associated jetties and access, including improved disabled access. The Board considered the proposals for tender storage at Hamble, a jetty extension at Hamble, a “Lobster Quay” style bridge at Hamble and a tender storage pontoon at Warsash. The Marine Director added an alternative proposal that the Harbour Authority should have a fleet of tenders that could be rented out pointing out that Southern Yacht club already do something similar and that a similar scheme is in operation in Torbay. The Board questioned levels of demand and difficulties relating to planning issues for the proposals, Members also noted that the schemes may undermine each other and were therefore not necessarily all required. It was agreed that the project should proceed, subject to more detailed costs and the views of interested parties being presented to the Board. In order to obtain detailed plans and costs it was agreed that resource from the current budget should be used to facilitate work on the above proposals. The Marine Director estimated that this would not exceed £10,000.

Members noted that the proposals to run a Harbour Authority taxi service had not met favour with the Management Committee and that legal advice on the issue of supporting the existing private operation was being sought as it was felt that this could be of legitimate benefit to Harbour dues

payers. It was agreed that the proposal to support the existing private water taxi service should be considered in the light of legal advice at the April Board meeting.

The proposed disabled hoist was considered and Members expressed concern regarding both ongoing maintenance and training liabilities and questioned the level of demand for the facility. The Marine Director acknowledged that ongoing costs could arise and explained that he was aware of two families with disabled children who had expressed an interest in a hoist but had not followed up with specific details of their requirements. The Board felt that with an unclear level of demand and the potential for ongoing costs, it was unable to justify the progression of the project.

Project 3: An expansion of school and/or youth group visits to the river. Board Members discussed the concept of the proposed project and concurred with the recommendation of the Management Committee that this should not proceed. The Board expressed their full support for providing educational information about the River, but felt that the Harbour Authority did not have a role as an education authority and therefore should not be actively involved in education work. It was agreed that further work should be carried out on the proposal to produce educational material that could be made available to school groups to use for their own requirements.

Project 4: Funding for SSSI enhancements and/or footpath improvements. It was confirmed that since the project had been conceived, a local community group had taken on improvements to the footpath from Warsash to Universal, in agreement with the County Council. It was agreed that the renovation of the revetments should not be carried out as it was not the responsibility of the Harbour Authority. It was noted therefore that no further action was required.

The SSSI enhancements were considered in the light of the Management Committee's recommendations. It was felt that relocating the intertidal moorings would prove very controversial with the mooring holders and therefore that this should not go ahead. The Board agreed with the recommendation of the Management Committee that the results of similar Oyster reseeded projects, particularly in Chichester Harbour, should be analysed before resources were committed and that the project should be put on hold. The Environment and Development Officer provided the Board with a more accurate quote for the seagrass survey of £2500. The Board agreed that the survey provided a good opportunity to learn more about the River and it should proceed at that price. It was agreed that the proposed photographic survey of the Hamble banks would provide a valuable record for the future at a relatively low cost and should proceed. Members also agreed that the maritime archaeology leaflet helped to enable the Harbour Authority to encourage understanding of the River's heritage and therefore that the leaflets should be reprinted. It was felt that the photographic survey and archaeology leaflet fell into the remit of the Harbour Authority's regular responsibilities and therefore that these projects should be financed from the 2010/11 budget and not from the Asset Enhancement Reserve.

Car and Trailer Parking

The Marine Director explained that meetings had been held with Fareham and Eastleigh Borough Councils and Hamble Parish Council regarding parking and the conclusion was that there was simply no more suitable land available to park on. Following a brief discussion, it was proposed that Clubs which organise regattas and events should be encouraged to include a paragraph in their event documentation on the subject of considerate parking.

Safety Plan for Marine Operations

The Safety Plan (appendix 2 in the report) was briefly discussed. Board Members agreed that the plan represented a good basis for the operation of the Harbour and approved its adoption and publication.

Accordingly, it was resolved:

Asset Enhancement Reserve

- That the River Hamble Harbour Board approves improved safety signage to be funded from the 2010/11 Harbour Authority budget. That designs be drawn up and presented to the River Hamble Management Committee and Harbour Board for comments prior to orders being placed.
- That the River Hamble Harbour Board approves improvements to tender storage and associated jetties and that more detailed plans and costs as well as the views of interested parties be presented to the April meeting of the Harbour Board to agree the project specifics. That costs incurred in obtaining detailed plans be funded from the 2010/11 Harbour Authority budget to a maximum of £10,000.
- That legal advice regarding supporting a river taxi service be received at a future meeting of the River Hamble Board.
- That the River Hamble Harbour Board approves the production of educational information material for use by visiting school groups.
- That the oyster seeding project be placed on hold pending further information.
- That the River Hamble Harbour Board approves the SSSI enhancement projects for a seagrass survey, a photographic survey of the riverbank and for the reprinting of the maritime

archaeology leaflet with the latter two projects being financed from the 2010/11 Harbour Authority budget.

Car and Trailer Parking

- That the position on car and trailer parking be noted.
- That Clubs which organise regattas and events should be encouraged to include a paragraph in their event documentation on the subject of considerate parking.

Safety Plan for Marine Operations

- That the Safety Plan for Marine Operations be approved, subject to minor amendments.

94. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 9 in the Minute Book) regarding issues relevant to the environmental management of the Harbour.

The report was outlined to Members and details relating to the maintenance and capital dredging explained. It was confirmed that the conclusion of negotiations relating to the legal agreement for the capital dredge of Southampton Water would be reported to a future meeting.

Accordingly, it was resolved that the report be noted.

95. RIVER HAMBLE BUDGET 2010/11 AND 2011/12

The Board considered the report of the County Treasurer and the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 10 in the Minute Book) presenting the proposed revised budget for the River Hamble for 2010/11 and the proposed budget for 2011/12.

The key features of the budget were highlighted to the Board. Members felt that more detailed analysis was required at the end of the 2011/12 financial year in order to fully understand the effects of the restructure. IT costs were discussed and it was explained that the projected charges from the County Council IT department had not materialised.

Accordingly, it was resolved that the budget be approved.

96. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 11 in the Minute Book) regarding a review of fees and charges applicable to the River Hamble.

It was explained to the Board that fees and charges were reviewed on an annual basis and the proposals resulting from the review were outlined. Members asked whether the 1.5 percent premium charge for extended settlement had been consulted upon. It was confirmed that an informal consultation had been carried out and no objections raised.

Accordingly it was resolved that the fees and charges as set out in the report should be adopted and advertised on the River Hamble website.

97. STRATEGIC AND ACTION PLAN

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 12 in the Minute Book) regarding the draft Strategic and Action plans.

Members of the Board were reminded of the background and developments to the Strategic and Action plans. Following discussion at the River Hamble Management Committee meeting of 7 January 2011 legal advice regarding the status of the document "Strategic Principles to Guide Development on the Hamble" was received. The Board noted that the document had not been formally approved by the Executive Member

for Environment at the time of its drafting and accepted therefore that the “Approved by Hampshire County Council” label on its cover was an unfortunate anomaly. It was agreed that the document had no status and therefore that reference to it should be removed from the Strategic Plan.

The recommendation of the Management Committee on 7 January 2011 (Management Committee Minute 81) that a long term strategic vision for the River be developed was noted. It was agreed that this should be drawn up as a separate extension to the Strategic Plan via a sub-group of the Harbour Board and Management Committee.

The draft Strategic Plan was discussed by the Board and it was agreed that it should be approved, subject to the addition of dates of validity, amending “Business Plan” to “Action Plan” where it was not already and removing the reference to the Strategic Principles document (as above).

A number of the actions on the draft Action Plan were discussed and updates and amendments were highlighted. In particular:

15. and 20. To be amended in accordance with the relevant resolutions to Minute 93.

18. The Marine Director confirmed that Crown Estate “Ts and Cs” were pending.

19. An action “to collect baseline data” to be added.

22. An action “to advertise and promote the Harbour Authority facilities” to be added. It was also agreed that the Marine Director should contact Weymouth authorities to discuss any facilities that the River Hamble may be able to offer with relation to the 2012 Olympic sailing events.

36. Required suitable actions to be added.

Accordingly it was resolved:

- That the River Hamble Harbour Board approve the new format and the content of the River Hamble Strategic Plan and attached Action

Plan for 2011 – 2012 and beyond, subject to the amendments detailed above.

- That a sub-group of the River Hamble Harbour Board and Management Committee be established to draft a strategic vision for the River.

98. CLAM DREDGING IN UPPER HAMBLE

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 13 in the Minute Book) updating Members on recent incidents involving fishing boats in the Upper Hamble.

The Marine Director explained that there had been recent incidents of fishermen dredging for clams in the River without Harbour Authority consent. A legal solution had been found, whereby it was confirmed that the clams from those areas were not classified for human consumption, which had resolved the problem. It was noted that several licenses have been issued to dredge for clams in areas of the River that were classified for human consumption.

Accordingly it was resolved that the report be noted.

99. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 14 in the Minute Book) setting out issues which it was anticipated would appear on the agendas of forthcoming meetings of the River Hamble Harbour Board and Management Committee.

It was agreed that the detailed costs for projects discussed under the Harbour Master's report (item 7 in the Minute Book) should be added to the April Board meeting.

It was also agreed that the draft strategic vision, as discussed under the Strategic and Action Plan (item 12 in the Minute Book) be added to the July Board meeting.

Accordingly it was resolved that the report be updated and noted.

100. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, as it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the reports.

101. **RENEGOTIATION OF CROWN ESTATE MOORINGS MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

The Board considered the exempt report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Rural Affairs (Item 14 in the Minute Book) setting out proposals regarding the renewal of the Crown Estate moorings management agreement.

The Marine Director outlined the background to the management agreement and detailed the staffing arrangements in place to carry out the work involved. The Board discussed the nature of the management agreement and the relationship between the Harbour Authority and the Crown Estate.

Accordingly it was agreed that Harbour Authority officials should enter into negotiations with the Crown Estate with a view to renewing the moorings management agreement on favourable terms.