

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held at The Warsash Sailing Club on 7 June 2013

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor S. D. T. Woodward

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Peter Latham

Councillors:

p G. Burgess

p M.G. Cooper

p S Cully

p P Fawkes

a R Kyrle

p F. Pearce

p A.W. Rice, TD

p G Ringrow

Eastleigh Borough Council

p Councillor Suzy Hamel

Fareham Borough Council

p Councillor T. M. Cartwright

Winchester City Council

p Councillor Victoria Weston

Associated British Ports

a Captain Martin Phipps

Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs

p Mr David Le Mare

British Marine Federation

p Ms N Walsh

Hamble River Boatyard and Marina Operators Association

p Mr. R. Boissier

Berth and Mooring Holders Representative

p Mr D. O'Malley

Royal Yachting Association

p Mrs P. Dorothy

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Rupert Kyrle and Captain Martin Phipps from Associated British Ports.

2. 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 at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in 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 Non-Pecuniary interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 2 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Code.

The Chairman emphasised to Members the significance of these duties in respect of the Agenda's business and invited their declarations.

Councillor Weston declared an interest by reason of being a Mooring or Berth Holder on the River Hamble, as did Mrs Dorothy, Mr. Le Mare and Mr Boissier. Ms Walsh declared an interest as an employee of Marina Developments Ltd.

Councillors Cartwright and Weston, along with Mr Le Mare, Mr O'Malley and Mrs Dorothy, also declared interests as members of local Yacht or Sailing Clubs.

Councillor Hamel declared an interest as a member of Eastleigh Borough Council's Planning Committee.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee meeting held on 15 March 2012 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed new members following their appointment at the meeting of the County Council on 23 May 2013.

The Chairman announced that the annual review of the Harbour Board's Strategic Plan and Strategic Vision would commence shortly, with the River Hamble Harbour Board establishing the process, and invited members and those present to engage with the Harbour Board.

The Chairman announced a change to the published agenda, in order that the item relevant to the deputations be considered by Members immediately after those deputations had been received.

5. DEPUTATIONS

Deputations were received in relation to the Harbour Works Consent application jointly made by the Royal Air Force Yacht Club and the Royal Southern Yacht Club.

Mr Geoff Holt MBE DL addressed the meeting in his personal capacity as a disabled sailor who was also a member of the Royal Yachting Association and British Olympic Association. He had learned to sail on the River Hamble and re-learned following his disabling accident. Since when many of his long distance, single-handed expeditions had originated from the River Hamble.

He invited Members to create what he felt could be the epicentre for disabled sailing in the United Kingdom, if not the World. He urged Members that they had a moral duty to remove many of the barriers to disabled sailors and that in supporting the proposals, Members would be acting consistently with the Strategic Vision.

Mr Tony Blewett, a Chartered Civil Engineer and life-long river user addressed the meeting with his concern for the impact of the development works on rowing and other small craft sailors inasmuch as it would mean further loss of protection from large washes. He also told Members that the required capital dredge would, in his view, significantly impact on the Hamble public slipway.

Mr Mike Ward, Director of Marine Projects Limited, consultants to the joint application; Mr Michael Fitzgerald of the XOD Design Class and Mr Ian Redsell, Commodore of the RAF Yacht Club addressed the meeting. Mr Ward highlighted the significant improvement in navigation access and safety to be gained through the proposed pontoon development. Mr Fitzgerald told Members how the development would, if granted, provide affordable moorings and consequently positively impact on attracting new younger members to this unique class of boats.

Mr Redsell, on behalf of both applicants, recalled that the Harbour Board had opined that the Clubs would better support the River in its use, environment and amenity were they to collaborate and this application was in response. The Clubs' 3000+ membership together with visiting sailors who would use the facilities would benefit the local economy. Were Members minded to recommend the granting of their application to the Board, they would signal the establishment of sailing facilities that would not only be the envy of other leading national sailing centres but would also positively impact on jobs and services in

the immediate and surrounding areas. He explained that in his opinion, the proposed works met and in some instances exceeded regulatory requirements and codes of practice for navigation safety; optimised the site's use of space and included provision for mitigating the environmental impact. The Committee were reminded of their direct experience of the regular flooding at the RAF Yacht Club and the project team had concluded a failure to replace the sea wall was not an option. The Clubs also believed that in their collaboration they had focused on supporting the Board's aims as set out in the Strategic Vision.

With leave of the Chairman, Henry Rochford, addressed Members on the current state of youth sailing on the River and the benefit of developing opportunities for young sailors were the Harbour Works Consent application to be granted.

6. HARBOUR WORKS CONSENT APPLICATION: ROYAL AIRFORCE YACHT CLUB and ROYAL SOUTHERN YACHT CLUB PONTOON DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book) in respect of a joint application by the Royal Air Force Yacht Club and Royal Southern Yacht Club to develop pontoon facilities on the River.

The Marine Director presented the report on behalf of the Environment and Development Manager who was absent, and advised Members that in doing so he would confine himself to responding to questions of fact from Members in view of his memberships of the applicant Clubs.

The Chairman and Members acknowledged the content and quality of the material submitted in support of the application which had greatly aided their understanding of the navigation and environment issues which they were obliged to consider.

Members expressed their individual views of how the joint application responded to the needs of ease of navigation; navigation safety and protection of the environment. It was felt that the proposed development work would meet if not enhance these needs, though this was balanced with concern about furthering the impression that the Hamble is just a giant boat park and how the Clubs were to actively manage the development works and, later, the revised pontoon system with adjacent operators.

It was noted the joint application had been endorsed by Natural England and the Biodiversity Officer at Eastleigh Borough Council.

It was proposed that a condition be added in respect of 'rafting' or 'double berthing' on the upstream end berth of the pontoon adjacent to

the entrance (see condition 11.2) in the interest of navigation safety. The Harbour Master indicated he would undertake to explore this with the joint applicants in readiness for the meeting of the Harbour Board on 26 June 2013.

The Chairman noted many Members were in favour of the development and proposed that the Committee recommend the granting of the Consent application: seconded by the Vice Chairman.

14 Members voted in favour; 1 against; 2 abstained.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Management Committee recommend to the River Hamble Harbour Board the granting of Harbour Works Consent to the applicants for the proposed works as shown in the drawings listed at paragraph 3.1 of the report and subject to the conditions given at paragraph 11.

7. HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 6 in the Minute Book) regarding incidents and events in the Harbour from 19 April 2013.

The Harbour Master introduced the report and indicated there had been no further incidents since its compilation.

Smartwater kits had been distributed to about 40% of private river users and will continue to be promoted through the Marinas and other commercial operators. There was concern that the messages in Smartwater's posters were counter-productive to attracting new business and it was noted that they had been removed from some premises.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

8. MARINE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: CURRENT ISSUES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 7 in the Minute Book) regarding current issues in the Harbour.

The Marine Director introduced the report dealing with current issues.

Members noted the effectiveness of the seaweed clearance programme of the Warsash Slipway.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9. **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding Environmental issues in the Harbour.

The Marine Director introduced the report in the absence of the Environment and Development Manager highlighting the changes in Marine Licensing for some categories of low risk works that now affected mid-stream pontoons.

Members were told that monitoring preparatory to the capital dredge by ABP would begin shortly, ABP having given the required six-months notice of intention to start the dredge.

The Harbour Master confirmed that there would be further communications with the River's commercial operators about the dredge.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Management Committee note the report.

10. **HARBOUR WORKS CONSENT APPLICATION: CABIN BOATYARD WALL**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book) in respect of an application to repair the quay wall.

Members considered the application's content and proposed condition together with the response from Natural England.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Management Committee recommend to the River Hamble Harbour Board the granting of Harbour Works Consent to Cabin Boatyard subject to the development being carried out in accordance with the design and method statement and Drawing Ref. 10236/1A.

11. RIVER HAMBLE FINAL ACCOUNTS 2012-2013

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services and the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book).

Members were pleased with the state of the Harbour Authority's final accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 following their own informal detailed review.

The fall in Jetty Charges by 40 percent against budget was attributed to a fall in visitor numbers and launches from the Slipway. It was agreed to review Jetty Charges income in 2013-2014 against the proposed budget at the year's midpoint.

Members were told that charges for Legal Services exceeded budget because many issues originated from outside the control of the Harbour Master.

RESOLVED:

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

12. PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL FORUM

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book) regarding the Annual Forum held on 19 March 2013.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted by the River Hamble Harbour Management Board.

13. WARSASH SLIPWAY IMPROVEMENTS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 13 in the Minute Book) regarding the feasibility and likely costs of improvements.

The report was introduced by the Marine Director. It included the feasibility and costings report compiled by ABP Mer and Opus International at the request of the River Hamble Harbour Board.

Members of the Working Party were dissatisfied with the report and the solutions proposed by ABP Mer. The financial estimate for the gravel beach was questioned, the Working Party preferring its own recommendations as fundamental to the Slipway's improvement and based on common sense.

RESOLVED:

That the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee advises the River Hamble Harbour Board to proceed to:

- (a) Approve the removal of the north-east corner of the concrete base of the maintenance piles, the infill with gravel around the concrete base of the maintenance piles to restore the levels, taking care to retain a useable gradient on the slipway, and the filling of potholes and puddles on the remainder of the slipway surface.
- (b) Approve the construction of gravel retaining boards; complete with marker posts and associated infill along the downstream edge of the slipway
- (c) Approve the fixing of additional depth markers on the maintenance piles
- (d) Endorse the installation of a six metre brow to enhance safe access to the Fishermen's Jetty
- (e) Support the proposed gravel beach; and
- (f) Reject the proposed installation of a handrail and additional cleats on the Fishermen's Jetty.

14. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee received and noted the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 14 in the Minute Book) anticipating future business items for the Committee and Harbour Board.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.