

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at Warsash Sailing Club, Warsash on Friday 10 January 2014 at 10am

**PRESENT:**

**Hampshire County Council**

Councillors:

- a K Evans (Chairman)
- p P Latham
- a K House
  
- p G Hockley as Substitute for Cllr K Evans
- p R Price as Substitute for Cllr K House

**Independent Members**

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

**Marine Director**

- p D Evans

**Vice Chairman, Cllr Peter Latham, in the Chair**

**40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Evans and House. The appointed Substitute Councillors, Hockley and Price were in attendance.

**41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be 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 is 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 while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

The Vice Chairman indicated that declarations of interest would be taken at the start of each item of business.

## **42. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 29 November 2013 were confirmed as a correct record.

## **43. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Latham noted the Chairman's absence through illness and welcomed Cllr Hockley, the appointed Conservative Substitute Member in his place. Cllr House's apologies had been received and Cllr Price was welcomed as the appointed Liberal Democrat Substitute Member.

The Chairman welcomed Captain Mark Capon, Designated Person to the meeting.

## **44. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations.

## **45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DATED 13 DECEMBER 2013**

The Board received and noted the contents of the draft Minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee dated 13 December 2013. (Item 6 in the Minute Book).

## **46. 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 since 29 November 2013 and from 22 December 2013 in the appendix provided at the meeting (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

The Marine Director described the damage and effects on the River since 23 December 2013 from the combination of rain and wind and then the unusually high tides on 3 January 2014. Two boats were sunk and many others suffered damage; piles irons and pontoon floats had broken free and there had been accumulations of debris, shingle and weed at various points along the River. The harbour staff on duty had been supplemented with other harbour personnel and the Board put on record its thanks to them for their presence and action during this period.

The Board was told that mid-stream mooring holders had self-certified their pontoons and equipment were in good condition in October 2013. Members were concerned to note that many mooring lines were found to be inadequate, notwithstanding the weather's ferocity, and their failure had led to extensive damage throughout the Harbour.

The Board agreed with the Designated Person that a Notice to River Users of "lessons learned" should be issued and circulated as soon as possible as part

of the Authority's Safety Management System to demonstrate it had done all that was reasonably practicable.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the report.

#### **47. MARINE DIRECTOR'S CURRENT ISSUES**

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services providing an update on issues in the Harbour including asset enhancement projects currently underway (Item 8 in the Minute Book).

Board Members were told of the progress made with the current projects: (i) Warsash Slipway; (ii) CCTV; (iii) Hamble Jetty pontoons and (iv) sound systems for meetings.

The required consents applications would be submitted to the relevant authorities as soon as the detailed drawing were provided; with the funding for the Hamble Jetty replacement to come from the Asset Replacement Reserve and for the proposed extension to come from the Asset Enhancement Reserve.

It was noted the Chairman of the Management Committee was keen to have an improved sound system at his meetings due to the number of members.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the report.

#### **48. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between September – November 2013 (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The report was summarised by the Environment Manager and Members noted Officers' involvement with the Hamble Estuary Partnership; the National Coastal Partnerships and other related environment groups.

The Environment Member noted the expiry in April 2014 of the transitional arrangements for licensing low-risk maintenance dredging that had been perceived as onerous to small-scale operations with little or no environmental risk

RESOLVED:

The Board noted the report.

#### **49. REVIEW OF BUDGETS: REVISED 2013/2014 AND FORWARD 2014/2015**

The Board received the report of the Directors of Corporate Resources and Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the revised budget for 2013/2014 and the projected budget for 2014/2015 (Item 10 in the Minute Book

The report was introduced by the Finance Business Partner for Culture, Communities and Business Services, highlighting to Members that the revised budget for 2013/14 had been prepared prior to the storm damage over the Christmas-New Year period and that the financial impact will need to be assessed.

Members felt that Central Department Charges should be contained from year to year; a contingent element be included in response to the storm damage (both income and expenditure) and accrued interest on the Reserve might be improved.

Members were told that Reserve funds benefited from the County Council's over-arching treasury management strategy and continued to receive interest in line with the Bank of England's base rate.

RESOLVED:

The Board noted and approved the revised 2013/2014 budget together with the 2014/2015 forward budget as set out in the report.

#### **50. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES**

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of fees and charges for commercial vehicles applicable to the River Hamble ((item 11 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director where it was proposed that harbour dues for commercial vessels remain unchanged (para 2.1a).

Councillor Price proposed an increase to 12 ½p which was seconded by Mr Jobson.

Members agreed the Harbour Master should continue to exercise discretion in charging for emergency towing, noting the RNLI frequently receive donations from those boat users whom they assist.

The Board RESOLVED unanimously:

- (i) To increase the charge for a commercial vessel visiting Hamble harbour to 12 ½p plus VAT per Gross Registered Tonne (GRT) per visit;
- (ii) To approve the proposed fees and charges outlined in the report from paragraphs 2.1b – 2.4 inclusive; and
- (iii) To advertise them on the River Hamble Authority website.

## **51. REVIEW OF ASSET ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services in respect of the asset enhancement projects on the River Hamble (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The report was introduced by the Marine Director, highlighting the contribution of SmartWater towards crime prevention on the River together with the financial pledge to the Hamble Lifeboat fund for rebuilding and development

Consideration of further projects to enhance Authority assets would follow the Annual Forum.

RESOLVED:

The Board note the report.

## **52. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services anticipating future business items of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee and Harbour Board (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

The Marine Director was requested to revise the Forward Plan to include the items of business requested by the Board during the meeting.

Members noted the Annual Forum would be held at Warsash Sailing Club on 27 March 2014.

RESOLVED

The Board note the report.