

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 13th April 2021

2.00 pm via GoTo



FALMOUTH
HARBOUR

UK's Atlantic gateway.

Attendees:

Neil Andrew, Chair	NA
Barry Buist, Falmouth Haven Manager	BB
Miles Carden, CEO	CEO
Adrian Davis, Falmouth Harbour Commissioner	AD
Don Garman	DG
Richard Jeffery	RJ
Nick Lewis	NL
David Owens	DO
David Richardson	DR
Matt Spencer	MS
Kathryn Smith, Clerk	KS

Governance

1. Apologies

Apologies from Peter Grounds who has also resigned from the committee. NA thanked Peter for his work on the committee.

2. Declarations of Interest

NK is Operations Manager for the Life Boat in Falmouth.
DG is vice chair of Falmouth Classics.
DO is a trustee of Flushing Sailing Club

3. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th January 2021

The minutes from the previous meeting were tabled and were approved.

4. Matters Arising

CEO went through the actions from the last meeting. The Board agreed that all Matters Arising were captured.

CEO has instigated a brand audit and a refresh of the FHC and FPS websites. The Falmouth Haven website is being updated currently. CEO invited Consultative Committee members to visit the website and provide feedback.

In the short term we want to ensure we are consistent in our use of logos, fonts, colours.

We would like to develop a harbour users app and this is currently being researched. We hope to have an interactive section based around the environment.

ACTION: CEO to email brand audit to Consultative Committee members.

Reports

5a. Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings: January 2020 to March 2021

January 2021

Item 5a La Peniche

There is a minor issue with planning consent for La Peniche, the floating barge restaurant at the back of The Haven. FHC is liaising with Cornwall Council about this.

Item 5c Falmouth Classics

The minutes commented that the Falmouth Classics were looking to hold a cut down version of the event. This is not the case although there will be some changes.

February 2021

Item 5 Management Accounts

CEO clarified that the final gross surplus was £53k but the overall net deficit was £13k.

Item 8c Pump Out Facility

CEO clarified that the Board's decision was that the capital investment for the pump out facility was to achieve an environmental improvement for the port. So the charges will cover the operational costs rather than recovering the capital costs.

February 2021 Item 10 New Pilot Boat

DG hoped the boat will be as environmentally friendly as possible. CEO confirmed that this will be the case although this is challenging as we need to balance the boat's resilience and sea worthiness against its environmental credentials.

CEO explained we are starting the legal work for the procurement process for the boat. We will also consider changes to the Arrow's propulsion system.

March 2021

DG commented that the minutes are briefer and more difficult to follow for non-attendees. Background information is missing. CEO suggested sharing the relevant accompanying paperwork with Consultative Committee members.

5b. Stakeholder Engagement Panel Minutes from Meeting on 5th March

DO said it would be helpful to see the Terms of Engagement for the Stakeholder Engagement Panel.

ACTION: KS to email ToR of the Stakeholder Engagement Panel to Consultative Committee members.

Item 5 Public Meeting Options

The University of Exeter have corrected a story on their website that highlighted pollution in the river Fal citing commercial shipping. The university story spoke about the threat from dredging but there are no current proposals to dredge the harbour.

ACTION: CEO to email response to University of Exeter to Consultative Committee members.

DO said there is an opportunity to be proactive with all the relevant sailing clubs and other stakeholders by attending their meetings and presenting on harbour initiatives. Initiatives like the app will make us more customer focussed. This can form part of the stakeholder engagement plan. CEO explained that we can use the top floor of the Maritime Museum to create an exhibition which initially will centre around the pilot boats.

Stakeholder Engagement is not just a quarterly meeting it should be something we do every day.

Project Updates

6a. Marina Expansion

The additional breakwater pontoon on the north eastern end of The Haven is in construction and due for installation in May. Once the installation is in place, we may need to place a nav buoy on the outer edge of the channel in case of low water.

Finger pontoons on the first arm will increase berthage. The Haven is managing the letting of these berths. These are for permanent berth holders.

6b. Boat Park Pontoons

Work needs to be done on some of the older slipway pontoons. Two new outer pontoons will be installed. These are for visitors rather than permanent berths.

6c. Pump Out Facility

Blackwater pumping station is in place and can be used. We are currently getting quotes for berth fendering. The pilot boats are already using the facility.

Staffing

Lloyd Pond has now retired. This is a huge loss to Falmouth Harbour and the Consultative Committee thanked Lloyd for all he has done.

Tim Jones has been promoted to Assistant Harbour Master.

Dave Fortey, Regulation Officer, also left for a new role in Southampton. Dave has been replaced by Jenny Smith as Assistant Harbour Master and Regulation Officer.

Chris Naessens, the new Assistant Harbour Master started with us last week.

Kathryn Smith, admin assistant and board support started in February.

Consultations

7a. FHC 150 Celebrations

Budget has been allocated and a meeting will be arranged to move the celebration forward.

Any Other Business

8. Matters Raised by Members

Anemometer on Black Rock

There was one but it has been down for several years. It was well received by stakeholders.

CEO agreed and it will go back when weather allows. It is a difficult place to have a weather station so we are looking at alternatives as well. It is hoped to be up and running by May.

We have a weather buoy in storage which we are also looking to use.

Seagrass

Vicki Spooner has worked incredibly hard on this over the last few months. We have removed some moorings over the sea grass and we are monitoring the area. We are also looking at alternative moorings which are more environmentally friendly. We hope to trial one and are in the process of applying for funding. A dummy yacht fitted with GPS will be placed on one of these moorings to provide data.

Removing moorings creates an anchoring area so we are looking at making this a no anchor zone.

We need to educate harbour users about this and an app will help with this.

Helford have created a no anchor zone over seagrass which has been promoted widely. However, there were still a number of occasions where boats were asked to move. Signage and education will be important. Even so the area will need some patrolling.

NA suggested using some space in the office window to display seagrass information. CEO said we can also promote the seagrass initiative at the Maritime Museum. We can also add something to the board at the quay in Flushing. DR suggested an information board on Kiln Quay.

DR asked if there have been any further thoughts on maximising revenue from RIBs arriving after 6pm free of charge. BB said we ask users to leave their details via the phone system and payments are sought afterwards.

Engravers Cottage

No decision made as yet but we are considering its use post COVID. At the moment FHC need the space for training and meetings. The RNLI will have first refusal.

G7

Details are still emerging. We do want to showcase the marine industry to the world's press. This is being led by Cornwall Council.

Dates of Next Meetings

Tue 6th Jul 2021 Flushing Sailing Club offered their new club house for the meeting on 6th July if COVID regulations allow.

Tue 12th Oct 2021

Fri 3rd Dec 2021 Joint Meeting with Board.

All at 2pm.