

## **MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **HELD AT**

**FALMOUTH HARBOUR OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

In Attendance:

Mr C Brown	Chairman
Mr T Light	
Mr D Bickle	
Lt Commander I Munday	
Mr W Amos	
Captain Mark Sansom	Harbour Master
Miss J Popperwell	Secretary

#### **1 Apologies**

Mr Peter Morgan

#### **2 Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### **3 Selection of new Consultative Committee Member**

Three applications for membership were distributed to the meeting and after due deliberation the successful candidate was named as Mr Tony Richards.

#### **4 Matters Arising**

##### **a) Waterfront Development**

The Chairman reported that the new Chairman of the Town Centre Forum, Mr Chris Smith has introduced three sub committees of which he chairs the one on the Waterfront. He stated that the sub-committee had largely reached agreement and he would be reporting progress to the Forum at the next meeting.

b) Falmouth Harbour Bye-Laws

Captain Sansom informed the meeting that Boatman's Bye-Laws 19 to 26 have now lost their effect due to a provision in the recent legislation introducing Boatmaster's Licenses. The Commissioners had therefore lost their power to license boatmen. And would be ceasing to do so.

A discussion followed on how public consultation could be harnessed to propose amendments to Bye-Laws which would deal with current harbour issues. It was felt that the Consultative Committee with assistance from the Marine Safety Committee would be a good place to process information gathered from a questionnaire. Draft ideas for which will be drawn up for the next meeting of the Committee in June.

c) Mooring Holders Questionnaire

The meeting was informed that Cornwall Marine Network is compiling a questionnaire in a more general form to cover the visiting vessels in the whole county. Tim Light stated that as he is a member and will report back to the next meeting.

e) Proposed Dredging Scheme

The contract for the Environmental Assessment Study had been signed on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007 . Captain Sansom informed that meeting that an all day meeting had been held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> with Royal Haskoning who will be carrying out the study. Falmouth Pilots had been consulted regarding position of the dredged channel. The cost of the study will be about half a million pounds and funded by the RDA, Objective 1 Falmouth Harbour Commissioners and A & P Falmouth.

The study will take 12 month to complete. Publicity has been good and a press release was issued yesterday.

Tim Light asked about spoil disposal and was informed that the majority of the spoil will be calcified seaweed most of which it is hoped can be redistributed, other spoil will go to sea or to landfill.

f) FHC Award

The award had been presented to Roger Hollingsworth at the last Marine Safety Meeting.

The Board felt that nominations from the Consultative Committee worked well it was agreed to make the nominations a regular agenda point for the Committee at their Autumn meeting. Members stated that input from the Marine Safety Committee would be useful.

g) Harbour Regulation Issues.

The meeting was informed that FHC Board has purchased a new small craft for mooring fee collections and other general use and this will leave KILLIGREW free to carry out more patrols of the Roads and beaches. A new seasonal member of staff specialising in regulation issues will be employed during the coming season.

## **5 Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings: October 06, November 06 and December 06**

The Chairman raised the point of Mussel Farming in Carrick Roads and Captain Sansom replied that, to date, no detailed plans have been received although Mr Kestin had been in contact with FHC and discussions were ongoing.

A discussion on what impact such a plan would have on the environment and navigation use of the harbour followed.

Tim Light informed the meeting of what happens at the King Harry reach mussel farm and the logistic difficulties encountered.

Mr Bickle stated that the Harbour is a shared facility for anyone wishing to use it which Captain Sansom agreed with and said that FHC has a duty to give all proposals brought to them a fair hearing.

It was reported that consideration of STS transfers had been shelved by FHC Board at the present pending the outcome of the Forth case and further advice from the Department.

David Bickle enquired about North Quay and was informed that there is to be a meeting on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March with District planners to ascertain if the Amenity block could be enlarged to provide better visitor facilities with perhaps extra office space. The Chandlery proposal has been shelved.

## **6 Any Other Business**

Ian Munday asked about a letter sent to RCYC regarding the commercial mooring used by them and Captain Sansom explained that letters have been sent to all commercial mooring holders as some of these moorings have been misused with boats of inappropriate sizes and no insurance being put onto them and this could be a source of damage to other boats around them. Also they are being sublet at inflated prices and there is now a need to reassess the situation.

Commercial diesel facilities was raised and the meeting was informed that FHC prices will reflect the cost paid.

Funchal 500 event being held in September 2008 was brought to the attention of the Committee by Ian Munday. Captain Sansom stated that hopefully the Docks marina should be ready by then and this would help to alleviate the laying of extra moorings as was the case during the 1998 Tall Ships race.

Walter Amos raised the issue of Friday night “gig” racing across the harbour and the lack of communication with either RCYC or Flushing Sailing Club regarding any clash with their Friday evening racing and a discussion on how this could be overcome followed.

Tim Light informed the meeting that spectator boats will be operating on Friday evenings for anyone who wants to have a closer view of races and it is hoped that at some point a live footage link will be available at the National Maritime Museum.

The increases in commercial boat landing charges at Custom House Quay was raised by Tim Light and the implications this will have on operators. Captain Sansom said that there had been a change in the market since last year which was reflected in the increase. He accepted that there had not been any consultation prior to the increases. The problems of “loiter time” of commercial boat congestion at Custom House Quay was discussed.

Tim Light reported that three new water taxis will be operating next summer and it is hoped to run them as a cheaper form of transport around the harbour.

## **6 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 1000 hours.