

MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD AT

FALMOUTH HARBOUR OFFICE ON THURSDAY, 7TH JUNE 2007

Present:

Mr C Brown	Chairman
Mr T Light	
Mr W Amos	
Mr T Richards	
Captain Mark Sansom	Harbour Master
Mr P Morgan	Falmouth Harbour Commissioner

1 Apologies

Mr D Bickle

2 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3 Welcome of Mr Tony Richards

The Chairman welcomed Mr Richards to the committee and gave a brief explanation of the committee's structure and aims. Mr Richards then gave a short history of what his company is about and his connection with the harbour.

4 Matters Arising

a) Waterfront Development

The Chairman informed the meeting that no progress has been made by the working party and the next meeting is to be held in two weeks time. Captain Sansom agreed that he also had no further updates.

Tim Light stated that the Falmouth Town Centre manager and Carrick Council had agreed a programme to provide hanging baskets and bunting for Prince of Wales pier and enquired whether Custom House quay could be included and was informed that FHC were part of the scheme. Tim also spoke of design plans to knock down the shelters at the end of POW pier and other disabled improvements hoped for. The Chairman asked if members of the Waterfront working party could attend the next meeting regarding these proposals - Tim Light is to inform Chairman of dates.

b. Falmouth Harbour Bye-Laws – Regulation Questionnaire

Captain Sansom informed the Committee that draft questionnaires will take time to produce and it would be useful if the members could raise particular areas of concern.

A discussion on enforcement of Bye-Laws followed where it was made clear that the wording of any Bye-Law is paramount. The Chairman asked if copies of the Bye-Laws could be issued to the Committee – it was agreed to include copies with the minutes when published.

It was agreed that the Committee Members would bring suggestions for Bye-law amendments to the next meeting.

c. Mooring Holders Questionnaire

Cornwall Marine Network were to have published a questionnaire but this has yet to be completed and Tim Light is to investigate and report results to the next meeting when ideas for a “visitor survey” for next summer can be debated.

e) Proposed Dredging Scheme

Captain Sansom reported that the Environment Impact Assessment Study is going well although no results were currently available.

The Committee enquired about core sampling and Tony Richards was asked to explain how samples are taken.

f. FHC Award

The Committee members were asked to give thought to nominations to be put forward at the next meeting, so that a short list of three can be submitted to FHC Board for consideration.

h. Harbour Regulations Issues.

The fatal incident of summer 2005 was again raised and Captain Sansom stated that FHC are committed to raising awareness of sea safety and to this end have employed a Regulation officer and assistant to carry out patrols on a more frequent and varied basis than during past seasons. Captain Sansom also informed the meeting of the hard work carried out by Captain Killingback on forging links with other authorities and the police to ensure that incidents can be followed through.

A discussion on wash then ensued and the difficulties it causes for both leisure and commercial users of the port.

5 Review of Commercial Used Moorings

Captain Sansom explained to the Committee the difficulties that arise from commercial moorings (of which there are about 20) and asked for its view on the situation. After much discussion it was the unanimous decision of the Committee for commercial moorings to be revoked and any business requiring such a mooring should be issued on a specific boat use only. Mr Amos asked if consideration could be given to increasing visitors moorings to make more available for short term use in support of businesses if required.

The Chairman asked about long term use by some vessels of visitors buoys and was informed that, at present, there was no time limit for their use but was assured by Captain Sansom that only visitor rate charges are used at all times. FHC are to be asked to review long term use of these buoys.

6 Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings: February 07, March 07 & April 07

Clarification of Dr Miles Hoskin complaint listed in April's minutes was sought by the Chairman and this was duly given.

The Chairman wished to note that the FHC Annual meeting had been first class.

7 Any Other Business

Friday evening gig racing – as yet there has not been any racing or contact by gig clubs made to either FHC or local sailing clubs.

Mussel Farming – Captain Sansom informed that talks are now taking place with Truro Authority regarding siting as their area now seems to be preferable to the site within FHC waters.

Visitors Yacht Haven Amenity block, the meeting was informed that drawings have now been produced but progress is slow.

Tim Light asked what contingences existed for oil spills as a few days previous there had been a spill between Gas Works and RCYC of what looked like heavy oil globules. FHC do record small spills and try to disperse spill by agitation as most spills in the inner harbour are of light oil.

Tim Light informed the meeting that yellow jet boat taxis are due to commence operations in July, working mainly between St Mawes, Falmouth and Flushing.

A question on why a port hand buoy had been on a visitors buoy was asked by the Chairman and he was informed that this is to be placed in the new position for North Bank.

Crossroads Buoy and why it is not used more for cruise ships was raised, Captain Sansom explained that most of the cruise ships that come here now are too big for the buoy, also the preference by cruise companys and masters is for an alongside berth to alleviate the logistics of boat transfers of large numbers of passengers.

Mr Amos expressed thanks for the goodwill and co-operation of pilots for major events and said that the liaison between pilotage and clubs is very good but new race officers need to make sure they carry out their side of procedures correctly and this is being worked on.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th September at 1000hrs. The date of the following meeting was changed to 11th December 2007.