

Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting
Tuesday 11th December 2007 at 1000 Hours

Present: Cliff Brown (Chairman)
David Bickle
Walter Amos
Tim Light
Peter Morgan

Apologies for Absence: Ian Mundy
Tony Richards

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising: a.) Waterfront Development- Rodger Radcliff, Economic Development Officer for Carrick District Council, has been reviewing the potential development of Church Street car park. He was considering a low-level development surrounded by open space. Carrick are currently getting funds together to sample below the surface of the car park to see if there is potential for a structure to be built there.

Tim Light suggested that FHC approach Carrick District Council about a potential purchase of Prince of Wales Pier, as he felt that this may become available with the council reform in April 2009. Mark Sansom pointed out the Truro and Falmouth Harbour Authorities were working in a harmonised way for their corresponding harbour areas. There was further discussion and it was agreed that this should be raised at the board meeting for consideration by the commissioners.

b.) Falmouth Harbour Bye-Laws- Mark Sansom informed the committee that the Department for Transport are talking about abolishing their approval process for bye-laws, allowing harbour authorities to introduce their own regulations.

c.) Mooring Holders Questionnaire- Cliff Brown explained that the committee had previously looked at producing a joint questionnaire with Cornwall Marine Network. No progress has been made on this, however FHC have commissioned their own questionnaire for the Yacht Haven facilities. Tim Light suggested a water taxi questionnaire, asking if this facility would be useful to water users in the area. The facilities offered to visitors was also suggested as a topic, such as dinghy storage, amount of visitor moorings and the facilities available to crane boats in and out of the water at big events.

It was eventually decided that the previous questionnaire used in 2005 should be altered according to the committee's suggestions and re-distributed. A copy of the 2005 questionnaire is to be distributed with the minutes of this meeting.

d.) Proposed Dredging Scheme: Mark Sansom informed the committee that the basic survey work had been completed. The presentation in the library was reasonably well attended. It has been proposed that spoil from the dredging can be used beneficially elsewhere in the harbour, limiting the amount of waste disposal needed. The meeting with Natural England later in the month is important, and if they are in agreement with the plans then the process should be able to move forward. FHC are now awaiting production of a model to predict the effects plume dispersal due to dredging.

e.) FHC Award- Mr. Pollard on behalf of the Cruise Project Ambassadors has been put forward for the award this year. Unfortunately, he will be unable to collect the award himself as he is away at that time, however his wife will collect it on his behalf.

f.) Harbour Regulation Issues- Mark Sansom explained the current enforcement actions and implementation. The legislation in this area is complex and there is a need for a greater understanding between the various authorities as regards enforcement. Since Dave Townson has taken over harbour regulation, collection of evidence has been much more efficient.

Captain Sansom also explained that it is planned for harbour regulations to be harmonised where possible by the various authorities, so as to avoid discrepancies. This is particularly relevant at the moment in light of the proposed new docks marina.

The committee was informed about the sewage debate, which recently took place on Radio Cornwall. According to this debate, there are currently 25 outlets that allow sewage into the harbour. The committee discussed how FHC can minimise sewage levels. Mark Sansom pointed out that vessels alongside on pontoons are not allowed to discharge waste.

Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings: Sep 07 Oct 07:

The issue of the harbour speed limit was raised as a topic from a previous meeting. It was suggested that the speed limit for the harbour be lowered from eight to six knots.

It was also suggested that there should be a speed limit introduced for the Carrick Roads. Mark Sansom commented that people can already be prosecuted for dangerous navigation whilst in the Roads, as well as in the

harbour. However, he felt that a set speed limit would be difficult to enforce and would require extensive consultation.

Consolidated European Reporting System:

Mark Sansom explained the new IMAP system being introduced at FHC, which will replace the current port management system, PIMS. This complies with the new reporting legislation from the MCA, which states that ports must provide last and next port information to the MCA on all ships entering their waters. This applies to all ships over 45m.

Any Other Business:

Tim Light requested a letter of support from FHC in regard to the new skipper licensing regulations under the MCA. The regulations have specified that skippers have to re-qualify, but they have not released any methodology as to how to pass this qualification. All commercially licensed skippers have to comply by 31st January 2008, although due to the lack of information provided this is currently impossible.

A letter detailing these problems is to be sent with the minutes, supporting transitional arrangements for new legislation. The Board of Commissioners will also consider the implications and decide whether a letter of support is appropriate.

Meeting Ended: 1115