

Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting
Tuesday 8th September 2009 at 1400 Hours

Present: Cliff Brown (Chairman)
Mark Sansom (Harbour Master and Chief Executive)
David Bickle
Morwenna Richards
Ian Mundy
Walter Amos
Tim Light
Sarah Leverton (Administration Assistant)

Apologies for Absence: Peter Morgan

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Matters Arising:

Falmouth Port Development Initiative- FHC are currently working towards building relationships within the new Cornwall Council structure. Meetings have been had with the new Chief Executive of Cornwall Council and the RDA, which appear positive. A new steering group has been formed, and feedback is very positive in terms of the effect the development would have on the County.

The RDA are positive and are assisting with progressing the scheme. The exchange rate has increase the amount of money in the convergence pot, so more money is potentially available for Cornwall.

The consultation stage is still ongoing, and there have been no letters of objection as-yet.

Ian Mundy noted the large number of cruise ship leaving Southampton the previous weekend, and the huge effect that was having on the city.

The Master Plan has now been scoped, which shows the medium-term scenario for the project going/not going ahead. Developments have occurred in that the Bailey Group have taken sole ownership of A&P Falmouth. The docks are still very positive in terms of the project.

Cliff brown asked where the money would come from for the project. Mark Sansom felt it would probably come from convergence funds, and felt that the money would be found should it be agreed that the project was needed.

Yacht Haven Water Supply- Barry Buist said that the deadline for getting a solution in place had been extended to December. The possibility is now being explored for having a tank on the pontoon rather than the quay, which would overcome the issues relating to the quay being listed.

Revision of Boat Charges for Boat Park- Barry Buist explained that, having looked into the potential benefits of reorganising the boat park, it was decided not to bring forward this proposal.

Cliff Brown thanked FHC on behalf of the town for the Red Arrows display during Falmouth Week. Mark Sansom confirmed that the commissioners hoped to sponsor next year's display.

Tim Light asked why a prosecution was not brought about for the incident concerning a motor boat creating excessive wash near a passenger ferry. Mark Sansom explained insufficient evidence was available in this case. Statements were needed from the passengers stating that the wash created was dangerous to them. As it was not possible to get these statements it was therefore not possible to prosecute the owner of the motorboat. It was agreed that the FHC Enforcement Officer would liaise with the ferry companies about the need to get witness statements from passengers.

Proposed Terms of Reference:

The proposed Terms of Reference were agreed.

Stakeholder Consultation Strategy:

It was explained that the DfT definition of stakeholders is very broad and includes anyone with a link to the harbour, not just those using FHC facilities.

A paper written by Sarah Leverton was distributed to the committee, outlining an online survey to engage with leisure stakeholders. It was agreed that the surveys described should go ahead, and it was felt that this would go some way to filling in the gap in communication with leisure stakeholders.

Mooring Terms and Conditions:

Cliff Brown raised the issue of not reallocating moorings mid-season. Mark Sansom explained that moorings are sometimes let on a short term basis, but not reallocated mid-season as many people have often already found a mooring for their vessel for that season.

The possibility of using empty moorings temporarily for visitors moorings was discussed, but Mark Sansom explained that the practicalities for this were not feasible.

FHC Award Nominations:

Sam Groom was suggested for the award. It was agreed that her name would be put forward to the FHC board.

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It was asked what happen regarding a complaint against Killigrew for impeding a race. Mark Sansom explained he had been made aware of a problem and had asked Walter Amos to assist by liaising with the club concerned. Walter reported that the race committee had set the course with the end of the start line in the waterski area, which meant yachts were sailing within that area in waiting to start the race. Killigrew went alongside the committee boat to complain about this. It was agreed that the incident was unfortunate and that the measures taken should prevent a recurrence.

David Bickle asked was happened in the oil spill incident. Mark Sansom reported that the tanks had overspilled whilst a ship was bunkering, but that the incident was contained and cleared up quickly.

David Bickle asked about the expense associated with the Cross Roads Buoy. Mark Sansom stated that the Argus had dragged the mooring, which had proved costly to relocate.

Any Other Business:

Tim Light reported the trouble he has had operating recently on Custom House Quay. His staff had received abusive language and the situation was becoming very heated. He complained that the Harbour Authority were not effectively regulating the area.

Mark Sansom said that there were plans being drawn up for next season with should help alleviate the problem. Tim Light asked if these plans could be put before the Consultative Committee before they were implemented and this was agreed.

It was asked whether there would be a review of harbour by-laws. Mark Sansom said that this would feature on the next agenda.

Walter Amos reported that Falmouth Week was very successful, and thanked FHC for their cooperation. He the format for finishing working boats and sunbeams on club lines was very successful. Mark Sansom congratulated Walter Amos on successfully resolving the issue.

Date of Next Meeting: 8th December 2009