



Falmouth Harbour
Commissioners

CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

14.00 hrs on Tuesday 6th March 2012

Attendees:

Ian Munday	Chairman
Mark Sansom	Harbour Master
Barry Buist	Leisure Services Manager
Sue Cocks (Minutes)	Leisure Services Accounts Officer
Peter Hamilton	Falmouth Harbour Commissioner
David Carne	
David Muirhead	
Martin Bidmead	
David Barnicoat	

Apologies:

David Hitchcock
Chris Smith

1. Apologies

See table above.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting – 6th December 2011

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Welcome New Members – David Barnicoat & Martin Bidmead

Ian welcomed David Barnicoat and Martin Bidmead to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

David Barnicoat – 15yrs merchant navy, 34yrs as a Falmouth pilot, keen interest in the harbour and the waterfront.

Martin Bidmead – has been a coastguard for 16yrs based in Falmouth, keen sailor in a leisure capacity.

Ian gave a brief talk about the consultative committee and the role we provide. The phrase he likes is to use is 'the boards' critical friend', to give an external view and represent our constituent areas to them in a critical but friendly way and used by the board on various points of consultation. We have to except we have not executive powers. Peter Hamilton reported to the board the committee wanted to become more closer to the board with a more active dialogue, the board agreed that the chairman would attend the board meeting after the consultative meeting.

3. Matters Arising



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All matters arising are in hand. Ian brought up that the consultative minutes are slow to be put onto the website as they are approved at the next quarterly meeting. Mark S suggested the minutes are circulated to members and if no objections are made within two weeks of the circulation then they will be classed as approved.

Bye-laws have been discussed at board level, in which the board are trying to put together a harbour revision order in which part of this will be to try to include the power of general direction which is an alternative way of controlling navigation issues rather than going to bye-laws.

The board are looking at June/July for a joint meeting with the consultative committee to consult after the boards' workshop on the overall strategy.

ACTION: Improvement of minutes being published on the website.

4. **Social Capital Survey**

There has been a limited response to the survey with some interesting comments.

David Barnicoat said he thought you couldn't get a true picture of FHC from this survey. Ian said there was no real explanation or reasoning behind the survey on the website. David Carne asked the question about giving the survey to the visiting yachts using the harbour, it was stated this has been done before and it worked well but the idea behind this survey was to expand to the wider stakeholder audience to their thoughts on FHC. Martin asked the question if all the mooring holders were targeted and it was commented on a missed opportunity in the latest newsletter which has just been distributed.

It was discussed briefly about the first impression customers get on entering the small front door and then the hatch area used as the reception. The maintenance of this area is being looked into as part of an ongoing programme and also the re-design of the website is in progress.

Martin Bidmead asked about the relocation of the offices - several opportunities have risen but at present the offices are situated in a prime location.

ACTION: Use the shop window to advertise information on the survey.

5. **Communications with FHC Board**

Previously covered in item 2 – welcoming new members.

6. **Revision to Terms of Reference**

This was to increase the number of the committee members and has been agreed by the Board.

7. **Regulations Updates**

a) **Proposed Harbour Revision Order**

b) **Byelaws**

A major exercise has begun to update powers. There was a comprehensive list



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put to our parliamentary agent for discussion, some of these were:

- a) Areas where our constitution was not compliant to the latest guidance to the DFT
- b) Clarify indemnity for commissioners
- c) Jurisdiction
- d) Powers to remove obstructions other than vessels.
- e) Powers of general direction
- f) Making of bye-laws for environmental purposes
- g) Set of outdated bye-laws of licensing craft and boatman – overlap with MCA code of practice, needs clarification
- h) Updating our borrowing powers
- i) Technical points on the way we charge harbour dues on ships but the advent of other floating devices i.e. Fabtest and the potential of wave devices
- j) Enforcement powers
- k) Additional powers required if setting up vessel traffic services

A large number of subject areas had been reviewed including regulation of car parks, slipways, fish landing, tomb stoning, jet skis and swimming. Mark S hopefully will have more information at the next meeting as it is still in the early stages of discussions.

Ian Munday asked the question of what is the difference between bye-laws and harbour revision order, Mark S explained they can cover the same things but have separate updating processes, generally though the harbour revision order is normally about the organisation of the harbour and keeping your powers up to date whereas a bye-law are specifically around enforcing ways of use of the harbour.

Any amendments to the harbour revision order have to go out to public consultation which is advertised in the London Gazette, and then there is a consultation process.

Martin Bidmead brought up about the problems regarding jet skiing in swimming areas that are outside the harbour area and that the bye-laws vary from place to place. Mark S said there is scope for a lot of improvements to legalisation.

Mark S asked members of the committee for any thoughts on bye-laws.

The laying of fishing gear was discussed, and an option of issuing notice to mariners to prevent laying of fishing gear in specific areas and the correct marking of fishing gear was suggested.

It was also suggested a code of practice to be drafted by David Barnicoat and David Muirhead re fishing gear.

ACTION: DB & DM to draft a code of practice on fishing gear.

8. FHC Strategy Update

The board have come up with strategic objectives that go in beginning of the annual report, it breaks down into 5 different sections with 4/5 key strategic



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objections around those sections. The board have an ongoing process of updating their strategy.

9 Port of Falmouth Development Initiative

Mark S updated the committee on the developments of the POFDI, lots of news coverage on the subject of economy verses environment debate. On a practical note FHC are trying to set up a trail to measure the impact of the dead mearl habitat. A full brief will go out the press to explain what the trail is designed for.

10. Waterfront Development

The Penryn River study is ongoing which is looking at the future of the waterfront.

11. Fabtest Update

The first device is due to go out on site now.

12. FaMe Update

This aims to gain a genuine partnership between the academic institutions and the industry, try to generate worthwhile projects for the students that actually deliver outcome for industry at the same time. This is still in the early stages and Harriet is working alongside the marine school on setting this up at present.

13. Minutes of Board Minutes: Oct11, Nov 11, Dec 11 & Jan 12

The minutes of the Board meetings were reviewed and they only issued raised was from David Carne who asked about 'Free Spirit' court case which Barry Buist updated everyone on.

14. AOB

Martin Bidmead asked on behalf of the Falmouth Working Boats association if the few working boats on the Flushing side could be moved over to the Falmouth side. He was informed there is a transfer list option available to anyone of those wishing to move.

Barry Buist informed all the members of the secure website facility available to view all relevant papers associated with the committee. Sue will promulgate the information to all the members to view.

15. Confirmation of next meeting

The date of the next Consultative Committee meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 12th June 2012 at 14:00 hrs** in the Falmouth Harbour Office.

This meeting concluded at 16.15 hrs