



CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1400 hrs on Tuesday 15 September 2015 at the
Cornwall Port Health Authority Building

Attendees:

Ian Munday	Chairman	IM
Martin Bidmead		MB
David Carne		DC
David Muirhead		DM
Mark Sansom	Harbour Master	HM
Mary Stribley	FHC (Minutes)	MSt

Also in attendance:

Neil Andrew	NA
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Governance

1. Apologies

Carrie Gilmore
Chris Smith
David Hitchcock

IM welcomed prospective Consultative Committee member, Neil Andrew, to the meeting.

He explained that we do not have a quorum, although it was agreed that the meeting could go ahead but that any recommendations would have to be approved by a quorate meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Approval of minutes of the last meeting – 9 June 2015

IM explained the agenda items to NA.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as accurate.



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Matters arising

a) Harbour Direction 01/15

IM reported that FHC have now made their first Harbour Direction. The next stage is to promulgate it and then advertise it. They plan to circulate it to press and trade publications, including RYA.

DM said that Swanpool Beach instructs dinghy sailing and windsurfing and he asked if they were rendering themselves liable to prosecution if their speed was more than four knots. HM said that this direction is there to protect bathers, and IM pointed out that Swanpool have a cleared lane for vessels in order to protect bathers.

MB asked about the Government's definition of a ship. HM said he spoke to the Shipping Minister last week to follow up on a letter from the BPA pointing out the difficulties and advocating a legislative solution.

IM said that with these Powers of General Direction, we can legislate very quickly instead of waiting for Byelaws, which can take years to come into operation.

NA asked if the existing buoys need re-positioning, and HM said that this would be done.

IM concluded that this was a good exercise and commended those involved.
Completed.

b) David Muirhead to invite Simon Cadman to FEMSC meeting

DM said he is working on arranging this but that Simon was very busy with IFCA bye-laws; HM mentioned the desirability of harmonising the Code of Practice for the laying and marking of fishing gear which had been developed by the Consultative Committee with both sets of bye-laws. *Ongoing.*

c) HM to write 'The Maritime Community Award – Sponsored by Falmouth Harbour Commissioners'

HM said he has produced a draft for proposed partner organisations, with the intention to distribute this. IM said that what the CC will do is to look at it for views and comments. HM said he would run it past the Board.

MB suggested that it would be a good idea to broaden to organisations as well as individuals.

IM asked what format it is in, and also for HM to define "to get involved". HM said the public would be involved in nominating and judging. The Nomination form will allow a citation field.



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DC asked about the customers' involvement. HM said that we went through the Falmouth Packet a couple of years ago and got almost no responses; we have run a similar exercise online as well.

HM said that maybe getting Falmouth Town Council involved will generate more interest; public awareness may increase.

HM added that this award will not be determined by FHC, only sponsored by them.

IM said that Consultative Committee agreed to the award; but also a bit more work is needed on the process.

d) DM to co-ordinate "Marking of Fishing Gear" working group

This was discussed at 4b).

e) Consultative Committee member recruitment

IM asked the present members to vote on accepting Neil Andrew onto the Consultative Committee; the members were very keen to do so. IM welcomed NA formally to the committee.

IM asked for the recruitment advert to be left on the website for a further month.

Reports

4. Minutes of FHC meetings

Harbour Board Meetings: April, May, June 2015.

The committee discussed various points, including:

- DM mentioned the various slip, trip and fall accidents; he said we have a lot of these. IM said that one of the harbour strategies is to put up a sign; although there do seem to be a lot of signs. HM replied that insurers always ask if there is appropriate signage. There was a discussion of ladders, railings and open quays.
- They discussed the area near the divers' steps where fishermen are sometimes laying gear; there have been complaints from divers about the hazards posed by some types of gear.
- MB mentioned the North Quay pontoon's position; HM said it was re-positioned due to issues with stability alongside the steps.
- MB asked about the planned replacement of the Pendennis. HM is to have a meeting with a naval architect soon. The preferred option is to have



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another maintenance craft built to a similar spec. He added that contracting out of maintenance is being evaluated. IM pointed out that the Pendennis is FHC's oil pollution response vessel too. On balance, the preferred choice is likely to be to replace with similar vessel.

Consultations

Remuneration of Commissioners

IM reported that the Remuneration Sub-Committee independent member has produced a paper on commissioners' remuneration. Commissioners are paid an hourly rate at the moment and the proposal is to consolidate payment into annual allowances, depending on which sub-committees they sit on.

IM said that the CC has been asked how to manage this. Regarding the timescale, it needs to be ready for Jan 2016, which will be the date of first implementation. IM proposed to email paper out to members for wider discussion, before the December meeting; he asked members to email correspondence to allow them to review the paper and forward to the Board for consideration.

HM reported that the commissioners became remunerated 2004; they have had very good responses to recruitment and attracted very good people, who are effective, with good attendance records. He said that remunerating commissioners has helped ensure that there is a strong field for recruitment.

HM added that FHC are looking at best way to remunerate within the existing budget. They would like to have some views on this.

Project Updates

6. a) Port of Falmouth Development Initiative

HM reported that that has been a lot of work done on updating the environmental statement in order to produce the Appropriate Assessment document for the MMO.

b) Falmouth Haven

HM outlined Falmouth Haven's development plans. He said that the Board are keen to grow the business to help with FHC's financial challenges. There is to be re-organisation of some of the facilities in the next few weeks.

c) Falmouth Pilot Services

The department is working well, and they are working on business planning for the next five years. They are also working on the contract renewals, hopefully resulting in a five-year agreement, to provide certainty and security.



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IM mentioned that he spent some time on a FH berth, as a "Mystery Shopper". He thought that the brand identity is good and the staff very helpful.

IM mentioned that he thought that there had been an improvement in pilotage due to increased activity. HM commented that a wider picture must be looked at when considering piloted moves statistics.

DM asked about the FaBTest device currently on station and the way it was marked. HM responded to this. He added that we have had other enquiries from developers and this is becoming a popular testing area. There was a discussion about the use of AIS.

Urgent Business

None.

Any other business

- a) NA asked whether the Met Office data on Black Rock was available online, and HM said it was and it was planned to share it using the new web site when it came on line.
- b) NA said he was representing PoFSA, and spoke about emergency landing sites for casualties; he said they used to use the inner area of Eastern, but they can't do that since the Pendennis Shipyard enhancement. He wondered if they should try to use the RNLI slipway or Queens South. HM said that Queens South is not secure in terms of being available, and recommended the ferry steps on Custom House Quay, as there is no issue with availability and has ambulance access.

It was noted that there is nowhere to tie up on the lifeboat slip. There was a discussion on various options.

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday, 15 December 2015 at 1400 hrs.

The meeting closed at 1525 hrs.