

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON
16TH OCTOBER 2009 AT 1000 HOURS**

Present:

Mr. D. Ellis	Chairman
Capt. M. Sansom	Chief Executive and Harbour Master
Mr. P. Fish	
Mr. J. Langan	
Mr. P. Morgan	
Mr. R. Yates	
Mr. R. Reed	
Miss. S. Leverton	PA and Communications Officer

Apologies: Dr. K. Sumser-Lupson

The minutes of the September Board Meeting were approved and signed.

Matters Arising Not On This Agenda:

There are no further training courses on pensions for 2009, and so the course will be rearranged for next year.

The architects are currently trying to arrange a meeting with the urban design officer and planners with regard to the North Quay development.

The Red Arrows application is to be added to the matters arising list for the next meeting.

Reports from Sub-Committees:

Pilotage Standards Committee- The terms of reference have now been drafted, and a copy was distributed to the board for approval. The board accepted the terms of reference, and thanked the committee for their hard work so far.

John Langan asked whether FHC should consider forming qualifications for pilots. Mark Sansom said that there was currently a national committee looking at this.

Marine Operations Report:

Rix Shipping have accepted the caution with regards to the oil spill incident in Falmouth Bay.

Both parties have now been interviewed with regards to the collision between the HAYLEY-MARIE and the CAMELOT. Mark Killingback is in the process of drafting a report on the incident.

The owner of the rib that collided with a moored yacht did plead not guilty to the collision regulation charges at the court case, but admitted to the alcohol bye-law charge. There has been a date set for the court case.

Mark Sansom suggested entering discussion with the police as a result of the case, promoting a joint approach to prosecutions.

The cost overrun on the LK MITCHELL refit has increased to an expected £81,000. The board noted the cost overrun, and requested a further update at the next board meeting.

The launch of a new prototype buoy was discussed, which is currently in location near St. Just. Mark Sansom explained that the buoy is part of a trial project run by Triskel Marine to monitor underwater sounds, which could include marine mammal sounds and anchor noises. Triskel Marine had employed FHC to lay the mooring for this buoy.

Harriet Knowles attended a meeting with Andy Brigden and various environmental bodies to discuss non-native species entering the SAC area due to marine fouling on the underside of visiting ships. It was hoped that a risk assessment approach could be developed to effectively manage the risk of this occurring.

Finance and Admin Report:

Lesley Allan joined the meeting for this agenda item.

Lesley Allan explained that the pilot boat account is significantly down on budget. This has been caused by a drop in income and an increase in expenditure on the boats.

The leisure services are generally on budget, with the exception of the maintenance work on the yacht haven where urgent remedial work had been required.

Richard Reed asked for a more succinct summary of the accounts, in order to track through any additional expenditure. It was felt that just a profit and loss and balance sheet may be sufficient, however some board members felt that the extra information was useful. John Langan also asked if pages could be numbered so that explanations of accounts were

easier to follow. It was agreed that Rob Yates and Richard Reed would work with Lesley to effectively summarise the accounts.

Rob Yates praised the accounts team for the reduction in debtors, compared with previous months.

Leisure Services Report:

It has been a good year for Leisure Services, and the seasonal staff indicated they were happy at the end of season wash-up.

A meeting was held with South West Water yesterday, and plans for the water tank have been revised again. A further budget cost estimation is being drawn up. It looks as though the only solution will be to have a large tank on the quay with a pump system.

KTP Associate's Report:

Harriet Knowles is working with the University to get academic papers published over the coming year. She has also been working on plotting areas of maerl habitat in order to assist with the dredging applications. She is also undertaking GIS training.

Mark Sansom commented that he felt the KTP project was providing substantial and diverse benefits to FHC.

Public Relations Report:

Press cuttings are now to be recorded in a scrap book to be available at Board Meetings, rather than in individual board papers.

Falmouth Port Development Initiative:

Natural England have drafted a response to the consent applications, which was not supportive of the proposal due to the uncertainties of recovery of maerl habitats. The report on the recovery rate of maerl beds was more cautious than expected. It now seems unlikely that Natural England will respond in a positive way. CEFAS have also requested further sampling work, which is costly.

It looks more likely that there will be a need to prove overriding public interest in order to move forward with the project.

David Ellis reported a meeting with Sarah Newton, and had discussed with her the possibility of inviting the shadow port minister to visit Falmouth. Jim Knight has also been invited to Falmouth and FHC are awaiting a response. David Ellis and John Langan have also met with Mary May to brief her on the progress of the project. She has undertaken to contact Alec Robertson, the leader of the independents, to brief him. Sarah

Goodall has been trying to fix a date with David Ellis to meet with Doris Ansari.

Kevin Lavery has confirmed that the council are still behind the project. The briefing of councillors is to be added to the actions arising. A letter has also been received from Pat Harvey, the new Chairman of Cornwall Council, accepting an invitation to have a trip on Arrow.

Personal Accident Insurance:

The issue of personal accident insurance (PAI) was raised, following the insurance recommendations from Tony Dyer.

Mark Sansom felt that, if FHC applied for PAI, then there should be a clear policy in place for how the money is used.

Richard Reed felt it could be useful in covering expenses through insurance claims.

It was reported that currently there is a policy covering 4 people in the organisation.

It was decided that the board were content with the current level of cover for staff and did not require additional PAI cover.

Mark Sansom is to cancel the current PAI in place.

BPA Conference:

Mark Sansom briefed the board on the recent BPA conference. The following points were noted during the conference:

- Whilst it was said in the ports policy that ports should not be financially supported by public funds, there has been a substantial investment in several ports in the UK.
- The cruise industry appears to still be growing, however container shipping has dropped.
- It was felt that if fuel rises significantly then there may be a rise in the work for smaller ports in terms of alternative transportation measures.
- Mark Sansom has offered to assist renewable energy company 'Focus Offshore' in their investigations into renewable energy and port requirements. It is currently felt that there is a potential £10-14 million benefit from wave energy.

- Apparently there has been a 17cm sea level rise over the 20th century.
- The MAIB were very supportive of the Bridge Resource Management course run in Liverpool. It was generally felt that ships crews should be better trained in this area in order to reduce accidents.
- The Borders agency did a presentation on 'E-borders', which is where the ships register their full crew details online so that they can then act on anything suspicious.
- There was a talk on Board management by Lesley Quirk, who has offered to come to Falmouth and give training. It was suggested that, should this be arranged, the offer should be extended to other ports in Cornwall.
- Under employment law it is likely that the default retirement age is likely to be raised or abolished in 2010.

Correspondence:

Customs has written to FHC stating that it no longer wanted to pay for facilities for customs vessels. Mark Sansom felt that it was arguable as to whether they had interpreted the legislation correctly but felt it would be expensive to go to court over the matter. He suggested writing back, stating that they are allowed to use the moorings for free as a good-will gesture, but that FHC reserves the right to charge in future should they choose to.

David Ellis received a letter inviting him to attend the service of remembrance on the 8th November, which he accepted.

Urgent Business: None.

Meeting Ended: 1245 hours

Date of Next Meeting: Friday 20th November 2009 at 1000 hours.