

## FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005

#### **Present:**

Mr C Brown - Chairman  
Mr J Langan - Vice Chairman  
Mr W Amos  
Mr T Light  
Mr J Bottomley  
Captain Mark Sansom - Harbour Master  
Mr P Morgan - Falmouth Harbour Commissioner Observer

Miss Jennifer Popperwell - Secretary

#### **1 Apologies for absence:**

Mr D Bickle  
Lt Commander I Munday

#### **2 Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2005 were approved.

#### **3 Matters Arising:**

##### **(a) Waterfront Development**

The committee were informed that no further progress had been made. A meeting with John Winskill has been requested by the Commissioners for an update. Mr Bottomley stated that the Forum were not happy with the plan which is set for the next 15 years. A discussion on possible re-siting of Grove Place workshop took place as commercial and leisure use of the slipway is not always compatible.

##### **(b) Falmouth Harbour Bye-Laws:**

No progress has been made regarding Bye-Laws, although the Department denies that there is a problem with capacity. The meeting was informed that the MAIB report into the fatal accident at St Mawes in the summer had raised the progressing of Bye-Laws as a problem. The formation of the Marine Safety Committee was well received by MAIB as a useful way of promulgating and co-ordinating marine safety.

A discussion on navigating without lights and being under the influence of alcohol and a need to education boat owners of safe boating followed.

**(c) Mooring Holders Questionnaire:**

600 questionnaires had been sent out to stakeholders and 130 completed forms had been returned.

A general discussion on the statistics followed and the viability of water taxis and tender berth racking were the amongst the most quoted needs for the harbour. Mr Light raised the point that the £56,000 grant to provide a boat for rubbish clearance was still available and stated that perhaps taxi and rubbish could be combined in the same boat. Mr Bottomley stated that the committee should ask the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners to look at the results of the Questionnaire and it was felt that the Consultative Committee should receive a report based on the results of the survey first and then ask the Commissioners to look at priority issues.

**(d) Car Parking on North Quay:**

Captain Sansom informed the meeting that a tender for commercial franchise is to be sent out. The tender will be for the plot only.

**(e) Proposed Dredging Scheme:**

There is an encouraging report that this scheme is fully justifiable in terms of its economic outputs. Representatives from RDA and A & P visited Liverpool to study the cruise terminal scheme used there, although not the same as Falmouth there were parallels to be drawn. Captain Sansom is to attend a meeting on the dredging at Cornwall Enterprises on Tuesday 6th December.

**(f) FHC Award:**

It was agreed that a review of the way the award is publicised needs to be held. After much discussion the committee unanimously agreed that the award for 2005 should go to Mr Alan Barnes nominated by Walter Amos. He is to be approached to see if he would be available to attend a presentation at the Marine Safety Committee meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at the National Maritime Museum.

**(g) Ship to Ship Transfers:**

The Committee were informed that Deborah Clarke Associates were now looking after PR matters on behalf of Falmouth Harbour Commissioners regarding STS.

Captain Sansom told the meeting of the situation that Forth Port Authorities are experiencing with STS and that it has just been announced that there is to be a 12 week consultation period taking place with various bodies. FHC are to issue a press release to say that they welcome the break but it will not halt discussions or further consultations.

Mr Bottomley ask committee members whether they had been approached by members of the public on STS and the response was negligible.

The Chairman asked about the installation of the radar mast and was informed that MCA had refused permission for the use of their land for this purpose. The AIS system which FHC now use was explained to the meeting and that there is now almost 100% take up of AIS with commercial shipping therefore giving excellent monitoring of ships in the bay.

The Chairman stated that all the positive aspects of STS must be used to keep the public and press informed as, at present, press coverage has not been good. The public perception of STS at present is of such accidents as the Torrey Canyon and positive PR must be used to correct this.

**(h) Harbour Regulations Issues:**

Captain Sansom is looking at a regulation strategy for next year. Discussions took place on the possible benefits to be derived from mandatory qualifications. The RYA are still against this approach and FHC would like to progress the debate with a view to having mandatory qualifications put on the National agenda.

Mr Amos stated that POFSA do not accept the RYA view at present. A discussion on slipway management and ways of checking insurances/qualifications and ensuing enforcement took place.

Captain Sansom stated that re-siting of FHC workshop would make it easier to regulate the slipway as more space would be available thus no backlog of cars and trailers would block adjoining roads.

**4 Minutes of Harbour Board Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September & 14<sup>th</sup> October:**

No points of issue were raised from the minutes.

**5 Any Other Business:**

The Chairman stated that FHC website was not up to date. Captain Sansom said that the ability to carry out more updates in house which would improve this were being looked into.

The package of diagrams and literature issued by FHC for pennants had been sent to mooring holders

Captain Sansom asked the Committee to give some thought on ways of finding a name for the new pilot boat which is being built. A suggestion of using a name from a Falmouth Packet ship was put forward.

**6 Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2006.