

**FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**  
**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY**  
**10 DECEMBER 2002 AT 1000 HOURS**

**Present:**

Mr R J Toy - Chairman  
Mr C Brown  
Mr D Watkinson  
Mr R L Jones  
Mr J Bottomley  
Mr P Morgan  
Mr P Fox  
Mr J Langan  
Capt M J Sansom

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**1. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman.**

Mr Peter Fox proposed and the Committee nominated Mr Toy to remain as Chairman and Mr C Brown was nominated as Vice Chairman.

**ORDINARY MEETING**

1. There were no apologies for absence.

**2. Approval of Minutes:**

With regard to Item 3(e) on the Agenda of 10 September - Services at Grove Place - Mr Watkinson made some comments on the way the meeting was minuted and why his amendments and proposals had not been recorded. At previous meetings he had made some proposals with regard to the draft questionnaire which he did not feel had been addressed. He felt the results of the questionnaire were not reliable because only 50% of the Boat Park users were targeted as the question regarding electricity and water on site was only directed to Winter berth holders. He said that at the time the questionnaire was compiled he asked the Committee for an amendment and the amendment was not made. He had made a proposal that a pontoon should be made available at the Boat Park as a picking up and dropping off facility and also to enable boat owners to pick up fresh water which should be available free of charge. Also the question of car parking problems at the Boat Park and suggestions made by Mr Watkinson regarding a concessionary car parking ticket or a "pay on exit" machine were not recorded.

He also felt that as Capt Sansom was not a Committee member that he should refrain from putting his point of view forward unless asked specifically for advice.

Mr Toy suggested that should a member wish to make a proposal it should be seconded and then recorded. However if the proposal was not seconded then it should go no further. He also stated that dissent should be recorded. Otherwise the Minutes were approved.

**3. Matters arising**

**a) Waterfront development**

After the completion of their draft report regarding the study of the Waterfront Development the Town Centre Forum had a meeting to say what was being proposed. The FHC have to decide whether to release land or funds to support the scheme. The Carrick District Council think the development would be a good thing for Falmouth and would like the FHC to support it. The Commissioners will be asked for their view points and will be shown drawings of the scheme. The scheme relies on marinas being built where some of the moorings are situated. Plans should be seen before any comment can be made. It was proposed by Mr Toy and seconded by Mr Brown that this Committee should recommend

to the FHC that the scheme be supported in principal and that there should be no objection to the fundus being given up if it is in the overall interests of the town.

**b) Mearl Dredging**

English Nature have advised that due to failure to complete the study FHC should stop issuing licences until such time as the study is completed. It was reported that once activities had ceased the legal process of having them restarted would be onerous and time consuming. It was reported that the Harbour Board had to decide whether to disregard English Nature's advice and to continue permitting mearl extraction or whether to suspend extraction permissions. The Committee supported the Board's view that there were insufficient grounds to suspend extraction.

The Committee raised concerns as to the likely costs to FHC of the future survey and monitoring work.

**c) Harbour Revision Order**

Capt Sansom reported that this is on course to be submitted by the end of January. In the interim, Commissioners still have to be appointed. There were no known objections now to the clause regarding the exceptions for charges to local boats.

**d) Bye-laws**

Capt Sansom reported that not a lot of progress is being made in this regard as the Department are re-thinking the suitability of Bye-Laws and propose that the FHC should receive power of general directions. The General Bye-Laws are on hold at the moment. It was felt that perhaps a Management Scheme should be started and a copy of the Poole Harbour Scheme was shown to the Committee members. The use of personal water craft was discussed - Truro Harbour insist on sighting insurance. Capt Sansom proposed a zoning scheme and adequate guidelines to be shown to harbour users to show how the harbour is run. This proposal is to be tabled at the next meeting.

**4. Minutes of Board Meetings**

Referring to Harbour Board Minutes of the 11th October - Review of Pilotage Directions - Peter Fox asked when the revised pilotage directions would be sent to the ship agents and port operators for wider consultation. Capt Sansom said there had been a delay, but they were now on their way.

With regard to page 2 of the Chief Executives Report (Harbour Board Minutes of the 6 September) Capt Sansom assured Mr Fox there was nothing currently to show that the income was down due to the reconstruction of the prices for commercial shipping but a longer term study of the effect would be required.

Mr Brown raised concern regarding FHCs proposed actions referring to racing yachts not giving way to commercial vessels. He felt that the Yacht Clubs should not be targeted but the individual should be brought to task if an incident arose. He also thought that the Pilot should report the name of the vessel concerned if possible. Capt Sansom explained that it was legally difficult to bring the individual to task. He felt a more effective approach would be working with the Clubs to develop guidelines and rules that would allow them to take sanctions related to competition. Capt Sansom confirmed that a letter had already been circulated to the Yacht Clubs which has had a positive response.

Regarding car parking Mr Watkinson queried the paragraph on page 4 of the Harbour Board Minutes of the 6 September stating that since the removal of the long term parking concession on the quay few direct complaints have been received. He asked does this mean that there were no complaints at all when we issued long term tickets and have we only had complaints since it became a short term car park. Mr Bottomley explained that the Dell was a long term car park and discussions had been made as to whether Custom House Quay car park should provide long term tickets so that people can use this car park as a short term pick up/drop off point and then use the same ticket to park at the Dell, long term. It was generally felt that this was not a good idea.

The Committee members agreed the following items to be placed on the next Agenda;

Fuel & Water facilities.

Car Parking at Grove Place to pick up/drop off.

Drop off/pick up point for boats at Grove Place.

Sewage Disposal for boats.

Capt Sansom suggested that these be combined under a heading of "Services offered by Falmouth Harbour Commissioners for the coming year".

Mr Watkinson asked if anything else had been heard on a report that someone had fallen down some steps in September. Capt Sansom said a lady had fallen when embarking the Cornish Belle but nothing else had been heard to date.

Mr Watkinson questioned why the Commissioners had been offered a trip in the Pilot Boat during the Board meeting of the 11 October. Capt Sansom said that it was to give the Commissioners an insight of what the Pilots and Pilot Boat do, especially at Dean Quarry and Porthoustock.

Mr Brown commented on the absence of Any Other Business on the Agenda. He wanted to ask if we had any Commissioners who represented the yachtsmen on the Harbour Board. Peter Morgan said that he represents an approved training centre and has assumed that role together with Nick Offord although Mr Morgan was officially appointed by Trinity House. Mr Brown said we needed a Commissioner to represent the yachtsmen.

Mr Brown said that he had been approached by someone from POFSA who said they were not happy as they are not represented on the Consultative Committee. Mr Brown had explained to them that they should have applied when they received the letter asking for representatives.

##### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 11 March 2003 at 1000 hrs.

Mr Fox said that he will be away from January to the end of March and would be unable to attend the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 1122 hrs.