

FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH 2005 AT 1000 HOURS

Present:

Mr C Brown - Chairman
Mr J Bottomley
Mr P Morgan
Mr J Langan
Mr W Amos
Mr T Light

Miss Jennifer Popperwell - Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

Mr R L Jones, Mr P Fox

2. Mr R L Jones

The Chairman explained to the meeting that Mr Jones was in ill health and unlikely to return and asked that a letter of thanks for his work on the Committee be sent.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Mr C Brown was proposed by Capt Sansom and seconded by Mr Amos and duly re-elected as Chairman. Mr J Langan was duly elected as Vice Chairman.

4. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Consultative Meeting of 14th December 2004 were approved. In future draft copies are to be e-mailed to members.

5. Committee Vacancies

The meeting was informed that Mr Peter Fox had not re-applied to join the Committee. A discussion on whether to select new members from existing applicants or to re-advertise followed. A suggestion of approaching the pilots to see if one would like to join the Committee was raised. It was the feeling of the Committee that a new advert was the best way of keeping the Committee open to anyone wishing to join.

6. Matters Arising

(a) Waterfront Development

Mr Bottomley expressed disappointment that the Consultants appointed to write the Area Action Plan were not looking at more smaller and diverse ways of making the Plan work for Falmouth. Mr Light said that he had attended a meeting with other bodies at Truro with the Consultants and perceived a more open outlook in their plans. The draft plans are due for publication in September 2005. Captain Sansom is to pass onto Carrick Council that Falmouth Harbour Commissioners would like to become more involved with the proceedings.

(b) Maerl Dredging

Captain Sansom explained to the meeting the contents of a letter received from DEFRA regarding maerl and that to continue with licencing would make the Harbour Commissioner to be outside of their remit. Although Candy Atherton MP had taken up the cause on behalf of Cornish Calcified Seaweed it was highly unlikely that maerl dredging would return.

(c) Falmouth Revision Order

The Chairman asked for an update on the Revision Order and was informed by Captain Sansom that the Order had now been passed.

(d) Falmouth Harbour Bye-Laws

Progress has been slow but Captain Sansom stated that a contact within the the department had now been established which should make communications easier. The main amendment was still that of Licensed Boatmen in light of the MCA now being responsible for licencing.

(e) Mooring Holders Questionnaire

A draft copy of the questionnaire was distributed to the meeting and a general discussion on its merits followed. Several ideas were put forward for possible inclusion i.e: availability of water, pump out facilities and a harbour tender for use of boat owners. Mr Light proposed a pilot questionnaire be sent to 20 people to guage their reactions. Captain Sansom is to rewrite the draft making it more of a marine development questionnaire.

(f) Car parking

Mr Langan and Mr Bottomly have been looking into ways of earning income from North Quay other than from car parking. The viability of a chandlery on the quay was discussed and, in general, it was felt that this could be very useful to visiting yachts during the summer months. Captain Sansom said that he had sent a pre-application letter to Carrick Council regarding temporary housing for the project. Also, some of the space could be used for additional catering. Mr Brown asked members if they had any further ideas.

(g) Dangerous incident

Mr Amos told of a very useful meeting between POFSA, RCYC and pilots had taken place regarding procedures. But he expressed concern that Rule 69 had not been made into a stronger implement by Jeff Martin in the protocols being sent out to all local clubs. An RYA solicitor had said that a written report of an incident was enough for action to be taken. Mr Morgan asked if the International Collision rule for shipping could be included in the procedures being sent out. The meeting agreed that communications between Harbour Office and clubs have improved greatly and monitoring of how procedures are adhered to during this year was the best way forward.

(h) Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings

Mr Brown asked how the two new commissioners settling in and Captain Sansom replied that the selection panel had worked very well and the new commissioners were proving their worth.

7 Any Other Business

Core samples taken for dredging at Docks had been found to be clean and when dredging does commence the maerl residue will be redistributed east of the eastern breakwater.

Mr Langan expressed concern about the speed that press launches came into inner harbour on the morning of Ellen McAurthur's return to Falmouth. Captain Sansom is to note this for future events they may attend here.

Mr Brown asked if the FHC Award could be made in a more prominent place during Falmouth Week. Mr Morgan stated that the Board had looked at this but felt that perhaps it geared the award too much towards small boat sailing rather than the broader spectrum of harbour work.

Mr Amos gave a precis of Falmouth Week 2005. Week will commence 7th August with Classic race on 6th August. One change that will take place this year is that all dinghy races will be held at Restronguet sailing club with racing taking place in the mornings – should there be an overrun then dinghies will be moved to upper reaches of Roads. All other races to start at 1400 hours in Roads. A company called Curnow Events will be operating the Event Square week and it is hoped that there will be increased daytime activities around the town. Henry Lloyd will be the main sponsors for the week bringing with them an international name and marketing expertise. One reporter for the main yachting magazines will be covering the week.

Mr Brown enquired about the proposed marina at Falmouth Docks. Funding for the operation is still be looked into by the Docks.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 14th June 2005