

## FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2003 AT 1000 HOURS

#### **Present:**

Mr R J Toy – Chairman  
Mr C Brown  
Mr J Bottomley  
Mr P Fox  
Mr P Morgan  
Mr J Langan  
Capt M J Sansom  
Mr W Amos

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Mr R L Jones

It was agreed that a get well card should be sent from the Committee wishing Mr. Jones a quick recovery from illness.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The Minutes of the Consultative Committee Meeting held on 2 July 2003 were approved.

#### **3. Matters arising**

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

Mr. Bottomley reported that he and Mr. Brown had attended two Steering Group meetings now. Carrick District Council were now in control of the public consultation process and a report and leaflet have been produced showing three options for the Development. Mr. Bottomley expressed concern that the leaflet was not neutral as two of the options were not financially feasible and the third option showed a large development reaching from Prince of Wales Pier to Custom House Quay. Mr. Bottomley stated that this proposal would have much opposition due to its coverage of the Custom House Quay area and original designs with a smaller foreshore development had not been included.

Captain Sansom informed the Committee that the Commissioners had asked him to write to Carrick District Council offering their support in principle to the Development at this point but subject to certain conditions on the use of FHC fundus. It was agreed that the Committee supported this stance.

#### **b) Maerl Dredging**

Capt Sansom explained that the study had been conducted into the reserves of maerl remaining within the estuary which incorporated a comparison of the communities inhabiting the dredged and un-dredged areas. The results so far indicated that no difference could be found between the species found in dredged and undredged areas. This supports the Commissioners beliefs that the licences should be renewed.

Captain Sansom stated that he expected a full report by the end of the month and he would present this to English Nature. The study is expected to cost approximately £15k and Carrick District Council were apparently prepared to invest £7k. Maerl dredging generated a revenue for FHC of approximately £30k per year.

#### **c) Falmouth Harbour Revision Order**

Captain Sansom stated that until recently he was unaware of any opposition to the HRO. Candy Atherton MP had since visited him to inform him that an opposition group had been formed. The group wanted election of Commissioners by local sailing clubs and the docks. The Trust Ports Review had recommended the opposite and that Commissioners should be appointed on individual merit.

The Committee agreed to feedback on public views on the HRO for the Board. Captain Sansom reported that the Commissioners may respond to the opposition comments by putting out a press release.

#### **d) Falmouth Harbour Bye-Laws**

There was no progress to report on the Bye-Laws.

#### **e) Zoning Proposals**

Capt Sansom reported that he had started designs for the Zoning Proposals leaflet and that they would be available for the next meeting.

### **4. Minutes of the Harbour Board Meetings**

Mr. Fox asked why the FHC payroll had been outsourced to Winter Rule as he thought it was an expensive option. Captain Sansom reported that it was to allow Barry Buist more time to spend on his new duties as Leisure Services Manager.

Mr. Amos when the Falmouth Week race officers could attend the daily pilotage operations meetings. Captain Sansom informed that the meetings were generally held at 10AM each day, varying to accommodate pilot boat activities. Mr. Amos stated that it was difficult for race officers to attend at this time due to race preparation.

Captain Sansom informed the Committee that commercial movement updates should be available on the FHC website from 1 November for all harbour users to view.

Mr. Brown asked about the Vistors Yacht Haven usage for the year so far. Captain Sansom advised that it had been a successful year and figures should be available for the next meeting.

Mr. Langan asked when the fuel barge would be operational and was advised by Captain Sansom that it would be handed over by the contractors later this week. The project had taken a long time due to delays with contractors as this was a complex undertaking.

Mr. Brown enquired if the person who commented on his dissatisfaction with the way anchorage charges are collected to Mr. Morgan had followed the matter up. This was not the case and the Committee agreed that the procedures should remain as they are.

#### **5. Oil Spill – Carrick Roads 3<sup>rd</sup> September**

Captain Sansom advised that he had received a report from Chevron Texaco which he believed gave an accurate reflection of the matters leading up to the incident. Procedures had been reviewed since the incident.

#### **6. Facilities for 2004**

Captain Sansom asked the Committee to advise if there were any facilities that they thought should be put forward for budgetary approval by the Board.

Mr. Amos suggested that a water supply at the Boat Park would be useful and it was agreed that this facility should be incorporated in the new workshop designs.

#### **Moorings – Charging by Facility Length**

Captain Sansom informed the Committee that the Board were minded to start charging for moorings by facility length rather than boat length. After discussion the Committee decided that this was a fairer method of charging for moorings and would support the proposal.

#### **Litter in Harbour**

Mr. Fox asked what could be done about the growing problem of litter in the harbour. Captain Sansom advised that he had already met with the Town Centre Manager and other Authorities about this problem and a further meeting was due shortly. It was agreed that Falmouth was busier than ever and the bins were insufficient to cope with the litter. It was hoped that an effective strategy could be developed along with the other parties.

### **Diving at Eastern Narrows Buoy**

Mr. Amos advised the Committee that diving around the Eastern Narrows Buoy was causing problems for vessels in races as well as commercial shipping movements. Falmouth Diving Club intended to produce a leaflet giving advice on diving practice. Captains Sansom advised that FHC already issue diving leaflets detailing diving requirements, although these could not be given to all divers unless they declared themselves when launching from the Boat Park.

It was agreed that this subject should be brought up with the Marine Safety Committee for discussion.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2003 at 10.00 hrs.

Mr. Toy advised the Committee that the next meeting may be his last as he is moving abroad to live.

The meeting closed at 11.20.