

FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 JUNE 2004 AT 1000 HOURS

Present:

Mr C Brown
Mr R L Jones
Mr J Bottomley
Mr P Morgan
Mr J Langan
Capt M J Sansom
Mr W Amos

Mrs Susan Smith - Secretary

1. Apologies for absence

No apologies. Mr P Fox indicated that he would be late.

2. Letter of Resignation – Mr R Toy

Mr Brown opened the Meeting and the Committee unanimously agreed that he should chair the Meeting in place of Mr Toy. Mr Brown read out the letter of resignation from Mr Toy and it was agreed that a letter should be sent to him with thanks from the Committee.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Consultative Meeting on the 15th March 2004 were approved.

4. Matters arising

a) Waterfront Development

Capt Sansom stated that Mr David Blanchard had been assigned by Carrick District Council to be in charge of the Waterfront Development. Capt Sansom and Mr Bottomley were invited to a meeting which Mr Bottomley described as very constructive. A document is to be made up by Hamptons to request tenders from Developers. Hamptons had spoken to Mr Bottomley asking for a run down on his personal view on how to find and vet developers.

b) Maerl Dredging

Capt Sansom reported that a further sampling programme was being undertaken. Mr Brown asked if FHC plan to issue licenses for the coming year. Capt Sansom said that a decision would be taken in light of the results of the study.

c) Falmouth Harbour Revision Order

Capt Sansom reported that the advert in February went through with no objections and was on the point of being passed until Mr Noakes intervened. Mr Noakes had attended our Public Meeting and had subsequently started his website campaign. He has had some success in that the Order has been stopped temporarily until all his allegations have been looked into. Mr Noakes had compiled his own version of the Revision Order which did not comply with the Good Governance Guide. The Department could order a Public Enquiry which would be at an enormous expense which would ultimately be passed on to the Harbour users.

Captain Sansom was invited to make a presentation at the Town Council Offices. Mr Noakes was also invited. Mr Noakes has made allegations that the Commissioners are elected illegally. Capt Sansom explained that in 2001 letters were sent to all appointing bodies explaining how the Guide to Good Governance works and how appointments of Harbour Commissioners would be made under that Guide. The Town Council agreed with the selection of Mike Orton. They are now of a view that they should appoint their own representative and are likely to do so when Mr Orton's term comes to an end.

Carrick District Council also have expressed their concerns and indicated that they will consider making an appointment under the terms of the 1976 HRO.

The RYA had recently sent a letter appointing Mr John Pickup to be their representative on the Harbour Commissioners Board. They had subsequently agreed to put this decision on hold whilst it was consulted with members.

Mr Amos showed the Board a document printed by the RYA on Trust Ports in April 2000.

Mr Amos said that an extraordinary general meeting of POFSA had been arranged regarding the Harbour Revision Order and Candy Atherton had been asked to chair the meeting, it was to be attended by RYA members and Club members. Andrew Bridges of the RYA had been asked to attend. Mr Bottomley asked if Commissioners and Consultative Committee members could also attend and Mr Amos said they would be pleased for them to come. Captain Sansom was

delighted with the POFSA's involvement regarding the HRO and hoped that the meeting would serve to give people more information on the Order. He said he would make a presentation and ensure that there were copies of the Strategy Documents and the Guide to Good Governance available. Mr Brown praised Captain Sansom's letters to Matthew Taylor MP and Candy Atherton MP which were published on the FHC website.

d) Falmouth Harbour Bye Laws

Captain Sansom reported that no progress had been made.

e) Zoning Proposals

Captain Sansom had hoped to show the Committee a draft leaflet from Gendall Designs regarding zoning proposals but it had not arrived in time for the Meeting. A copy of the leaflet will be sent to Board members when it arrives. It was agreed that sailing marks should be included. Capt Sansom said it was quite a challenge to cover all aspects in the limited space of the leaflet. It will be distributed widely to harbour users by mail shots and enclosed with invoices, it will also be available at the Yacht Haven and Boat Park. Mr Langan suggested that the tide tables be included in the publication, but it was pointed out that as these change each year it would not be practical. Capt Sansom showed the Committee a copy of the Environmental Leaflet and Mr Morgan suggested that the Marinas should have copies of these. Mr Bottomley was of the opinion that the sensitive area should be explained in more detail in the zoning proposal leaflet eg that there are live maerl beds and that is why anchoring is not permitted in these areas.

f) Bunkering Operations

Capt Sansom reported that the bunkering operations are to have an extended trial until the end of the year as the initial period had had mixed results. Mr Brown stated that perhaps there are too many pilotage restrictions. Capt Sansom explained that the ship tonnage limit for compulsory pilotage has now been changed from 75m to 180m for vessels in Falmouth Bay.

g) Environmental Matters

Capt Sansom circulated copies of the Environmental Code of Practice. Mr Langan asked if he could have further copies.

5. Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings 27 February, 26th March, 30th April

Falmouth Watersports Association – 27th February

Captain Sansom reported that the FWSA was experiencing financial problems. He summarised the recent history of the Association. Bernard Lawrence had stepped in as Managing Chairman and is sorting out the accounts. The catering side is in the process of being franchised out. Repairs to the building are also required.

Harbour Revision Order – 26th March

Mr Brown asked if the selection of new Commissioners will still be taking place. Capt Sansom stated that whilst the situation is uncertain until the HRO is passed, it is likely that positions will be advertised towards the end of the year.

Fuel Barge

Mr Langan asked about the fuel barge opening times as he had complaints that it was not open until 12 noon at the weekends. Capt Sansom explained that during the early months of the season, full time manning was not cost effective. It was planned to increase manning through the summer season. He stated that David Burgess was running the fuel barge and was very efficient. The Yacht Haven Supervisors can also help out with service of fuel. Mr Langan also asked about parking spaces on North Quay for Contractors working on visiting vessels. Capt Sansom explained that when the building work was finalised on the Quay there would be parking spaces available at an agreed fee. Mr Langan asked if it was a requirement that we have sight of the Contractors' insurance, Capt Sansom said we did not as this had not been raised by the Health and Safety Inspector but it will be looked into.

International Ship and Port Security Code – 26th March

Mr Brown asked Capt Sansom to explain this. He stated that ships arriving in the US have to show that ports visited met the security standards laid down in Port Security Code. The Falmouth Docks will need to draw up a Security Plan. The Harbour Commissioners do not need to do this as FHC have no specific port/ship interface as described in the code.

6. The FHC Award

Capt Sansom explained that in light of recent Public Relations issues, Mr Morgan has presented a paper suggesting an FHC Award for a special contribution to the Port to be chosen by a panel and presented during Falmouth Week. Mr Brown asked if this information had been circulated, Mr Morgan said it will be circulated to all the Yacht Clubs, POFSA, the Consultative Committee and the Marine Safety Committee. Mr Amos thought that Mr Tim Goldburn should be nominated for his contribution in getting the diving Clubs and Yacht Clubs together in discussions. Mr Brown suggested sending information to the press perhaps through David Barnicoat's column.

7. Selection of new Consultative Committee Member

Mr Brown suggested that the position should be advertised and Mr Jones agreed. Capt Sansom asked if the Committee thought that the applicant should have any particular skills. Mr Langan felt that someone from a Commercial/Business background should be nominated as the leisure side was well represented. Mr Bottomley asked if everyone was happy with the number of members on the Committee and all agreed that they were. Capt Sansom said he would place an advert in the Press and on the website.

Mr Langan was interested, with regard to the fact that Falmouth waters are at full capacity in respect of moorings etc and with demand far in excess of facilities, whether the Harbour Commissioners have any plans for expansion or change in the future, should we replace moorings with pontoons? He said the waiting lists show how many people require facilities in Falmouth and we have more visitors than we can cope with. He thought that a Pontoon Island might be a good idea. Capt Sansom said that a Pontoon Island had not proved financially viable. He said that the Commissioners will look at a strategy for future development. Mr Brown said that the Docks would have been an ideal sheltered area, but their plans did not come to anything. Mr Bottomley said that the Harbour Commissioners were neutral with regard to a pontoon marina in the Waterside Development.

Mr Amos produced a document regarding Harbour Racing for the Harbour Master to consider. The second paragraph describes the present situation and a discussion took place as to whether changes should take place. Mr Morgan asked about the turning mark in the harbour and a discussion ensued. It was finally decided that the Consultative Committee would read the document and it will be placed on the Agenda for further discussion at the next Consultative Committee Meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 21st September 2004 at 1000 hrs.

The meeting closed at 12.20