

## FALMOUTH HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

### MINUTES OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005 AT 1000 HOURS

#### **Present:**

Mr C Brown - Chairman  
Mr J Langan - Vice Chairman  
Mr W Amos  
Mr T Light  
Mr D Bickle  
Lt Commander Munday  
Captain Sansom – Harbour Master

Miss Jennifer Popperwell - Secretary

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

Mr J Bottomley  
Mr P Morgan – Falmouth Harbour Commissioner Observer

#### **2 Welcome to New Members:**

Mr Cliff Brown introduced Mr D Bickle and Lt Commander Munday to the committee and committee members in turn introduced themselves.

#### **3 Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Consultative Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2005 were approved.

#### **4 Matters Arising:**

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

A general discussion about the development plan took place and further consultation on the plan is due in October. Members of the committee expressed concern that the postponements would not be used as an excuse for delaying necessary maintenance work within the town. Captain Sansom informed the meeting that FHC boat park workshop plans have been put on hold for about 12 months until the development situation is clarified.

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

Captain Sansom reported that no progress has been made due to lack of resources in government departments. He explained the purpose of Harbour Bye-Laws for the benefit of the new committee members .

Concerns regarding the number of speeding motor craft in the Harbour was expressed and Captain Sansom explained that at present enforcing the Bye-Laws for such craft is very difficult and was another reason why the updates need to be resolved.

The prospect of motor boat owners being licensed was discussed also the feasibility of night or late evening patrols being implemented.

**(c) Mooring Holders Questionnaire:**

The questionnaire has been approved and Captain Sansom informed the meeting that it would be included in the October mailshot which will be going out to the Boat Park berth holders.

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

The meeting was informed that the Harbour Commissioners would like to see an end to parking on North Quay but the proposed temporary building to house a Chandlery to assess its viability as an alternative source of revenue was, at the moment, facing problems with Planning issues. The Commissioners are looking to put out tenders for the business next year.

**(e) Proposed Dredging Scheme:**

Captain Sansom informed the meeting of a presentation which took place onboard the Star Princess cruise ship on Sunday with various local authorities and organisations had been successful in getting public authority support for the scheme.

The question of maintenance dredging and its cost was raised and Captain Sansom explained that this type of dredging would be minimal.

**(f) FHC Award:**

It was reported that interest in the award had not been very great and there was a lack of nominations for this year's award. It had therefore been decided to postpone making the award until the December meeting of stakeholders of the Marine Safety Committee.

## **5 Ship to Ship Transfers:**

The meeting was informed of the necessity of seeking out different market opportunities for the port of which Ship to Ship Transfer is currently one. At present, Sullom Voe, Scapa Flow and Southwold are being used for such transfers. There is an increase in the amount of Russian oil being exported that needs to be transferred to larger tankers. The Commissioners have been looking into the prospect of such transfers along with all of the implications involved.

It was suggested that the Commissioners invest in a project that would allow the public to see what is involved and how the financial gains for the port would be spread amongst marine based businesses in the area and the knock on effect for other traders in Falmouth and the possible consequences of not pursuing the option. The safety issues would also have to be clearly stated and the measures that will be put in place to offset any mishap should it happen.

Mr Cliff Brown proposed that this be recommended to the Commissioners and the committee was in agreement with this.

## **6 Minutes of Harbour Board Meetings 20<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> June and 22<sup>nd</sup> July:**

No points of issue were raised from the minutes.

## **7 Harbour Regulation Issues:**

The problem of speeding and the amount of wash from power boats was discussed and Cliff Brown asked if a speed limit for Carrick Roads could be introduced.

Captain Sansom informed the meeting that the Harbour Office had been issuing the RYA "Sea Sense" leaflets to all those using its facilities this summer. A suggestion to ask the local marinas to enclose such leaflets with their annual invoices was tabled.

The need to educate power boat owners was discussed and with the sheer volume of users licensing was felt to be the only answer.

Captain Sansom informed the meeting that FHC were looking at the possibility of installing a barrier on the boat park slipway which would mean that all those wishing to launch would have to come into the office to obtain a key at which time safety advice and a check of their insurance could be carried out.

John Langan stated that at 4 knots large power boats have very little control and it was pointed out that boats with planning hulls create large amounts of wash at lower speeds.

The difficulties of prosecuting speeding cases was explained by Captain Sansom.

An invitation for the Consultative Committee members to attend the December Marine Safety Meeting was tabled by Captain Sansom.

## **8 Guidance to Mooring Holders:**

Mr Cliff Brown raised this point following an incident he had with his own boat.

Lloyd Pond, Mooring Officer joined the meeting to explain procedures and show the meeting diagrams and literature issued by FHC regarding pennants and pickup buoys. This package is to be sent to all private mooring holders at the end of 2005 summer season. It is also given to all new FHC mooring holders. A suggestion to put this information onto the website was made.

## **9 Any Other Business:**

Lt Commander Munday informed the meeting that when he was carrying out some research via the FHC website prior to attending the meeting some parts of it were up to date and informative but felt that it could be better. Captain Sansom replied that funds for such improvements were to be in next year's budget.

Mr Tim Light asked if anything could be done about the use of foul language on operational VHF channels as he had received no help from Ofcom but he did intend to write to them again.

Mr Light also informed the meeting of Water Witch and the new waste disposal barge which is a coded work boat. The possibility of funding and a mooring for it was discussed and is to be looked into further.

Mr Walter Amos gave a report on a successful Falmouth Week 2005. Despite Henry Lloyd being a good profile for the event (they will continue their support for the next three years) numbers had been down. A £7,000.00 loss had been made on the sailing side with the social side also making a loss. Flying 15 numbers were down due to the cost of onshore storage and the amenities at the Watersport Centre.

Kernow are to run the social events again next year. The opening hours of the fuel barge on Visitors Yacht Haven had been a problem with sailors not being able to purchase fuel at lunchtime and later in the afternoons – Captain Sansom stated that this can be amended for next year.

Mr Cliff Brown had been asked by Royal Cornwall Yacht Club members to raise the point of club members having their mooring situated close to the

club. Captain Sansom stated that this would be very difficult to carry out for various reasons.

**10 Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at 100 hours.