

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
FRIDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 0930 HOURS**

Present: Mr. A.M.B. Bell Chairman  
Mr. J.P. Bottomley  
Mr. D. Ellis  
Mr. P.J. Morgan  
Mr. M.D. Reynolds  
Captain M.J. Sansom Chief Executive

Apologies were received from Mr. P. Fish.

In Attendance: Captain M.B. Killingback Deputy Harbour Master  
Mr. B.R. Buist Leisure Services Manager  
Mrs. B. Jenkins Secretary

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Deborah Clark of Deborah Clark & Associates presented the Board with an update on the communications strategy and progress achieved so far by her company working with the Board's Regeneration Sub-Committee. The Chairman thanked Ms Clark for coming along and briefing the Board and looked forward to her next update visit.

Statutory Declaration:

Mr. M.D. Reynolds made his Statutory Declaration at the commencement of his new term of office.

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 13 January 2006 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

**Docks Development and Dredging Proposals:** Mr. Reynolds advised that a meeting with the RDA and legal representatives will be held on 10 February in Exeter. Various organisations would be represented. Captain Sansom would attend for the Harbour Commissioners. The purpose of the meeting is to get those involved with the project to discuss possible ways of getting a public / private sector partnership.

Mr. Ellis reported that he had had informative meetings with Peter Childs of A&P and Mark Sansom of FHC to discuss the project. He is meeting with Frank Twining, Acting Chief Executive of Cornwall County Council on Monday 4 February. The purpose of this meeting is to brief Mr. Twining of the present situation regarding the development and hopefully to

try and establish a way forward which will include the County Council's involvement.

**Waterfront Development:** Extracts from the Area Action Plan had been circulated to members for consideration and comment.

Mr. Bottomley felt that this was just another consultants report although it does contain some good points. He felt that there were weaknesses due to lack of consultation with bodies such as the Town Centre Forum and Chamber of Commerce.

It was agreed that John Bottomley and the Chief Executive would meet to formulate FHC's response to the document. A draft would be circulated prior to the next Board Meeting.

A CD copy of the full report to be forwarded to all Commissioners.

**Infrastructure – Temporary Building on North Quay:**  
Awaiting action by Miller Commercial.

**Ship to Ship Transfers:** A letter from Stephen Ladyman, Ports and Shipping Minister, in respect of ship to ship transfers in Falmouth Bay was tabled. The Board felt that the letter was constructive and helpful.

The letter had offered a meeting with the Department in London. Captain Sansom advised that he had been in contact about a date which was likely to be towards the end of February/early March.

Reported that the proposals had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee of the Cornwall County Council and the OPRC Plan as submitted was not supported.

The Environment Agency and English Nature have both replied as consultees, but to date nothing has been received from DEFRA.

Captain Sansom advised that along with Fendercare he had attended a very constructive meeting with a Kerrier District Council Scrutiny Committee on the issue of ship to ship transfers the previous evening.

A meeting with the Environment Agency to discuss their response is planned for the end of February.

Captain Sansom agreed to present at the next meeting an indication of the costs for amending the oil pollution plan and undertaking any additional studies that will be necessary.

**Public Relations Opportunities:** The Board recorded their appreciation for the presentation by Deborah Clark prior to the start of the meeting.

The Regeneration Strategy Committee to consider material for inclusion in the Strategy Document focusing on the next 3/5 years.

The Board to agree material for this year's Strategy Document at the next meeting and Captain Sansom to prepare a draft document in due course to include an introduction to the Regeneration Strategy Committee and their terms of reference.

**Purchase of New Pilot Boat – Boat Name:** Captain Killingback reported that he and Roger McClarity had visited Halmatic and had seen the deck moulding for the new pilot boat and the hull for the Teesport vessel.

Naming Ceremony – Towards the end of September and Mr. Ellis to invite Lady Mary Holborow to perform the naming ceremony.

Mr. Bell proposed the Commissioners present an Admiralty Crown Brooch in gold to Lady Mary on this occasion.

The Director of the Maritime Museum to be approached regarding the event being held on their pontoons where guests can view the vessel. Hopefully it would be possible for the public to tour the vessel whilst it was alongside. The ceremony to be followed by suitable refreshments.

**Tramp Oil Proposal for Revised Charging Arrangements:** It is hoped that a meeting with Tramp to discuss the revised charging arrangements will be held in the next few weeks. Noted that currently bunkering activity is performing quite well and it is hoped this improvement will continue.

**Commissioner Appointments:** Captain Sansom reported that Jonathan Harris had declined his appointment and his reasons had been forwarded to Commissioners for information. An acknowledgement had been sent to Mr. Harris.

The Appointments Sub-Committee had considered other applications and agreed a further candidate who will be meeting with the Deputy Chairman and Captain Sansom next week.

Commissioners Liability – A letter from Bircham Dyson Bell, Parliamentary Agents, in respect of the implications of liability for Commissioners was tabled.

#### Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report for the period 6 –27 January 2006 was received and adopted.

Captain Killingback advised that the Helston Range Buoy is now lit.

Mr. Reynolds informed the Board that he was encouraged to read that Falmouth Pilots Partnership have agreed an additional pilot should be recruited due to the increased level of ship movements.

Barry Buist reported that a wireless internet hot-spot had been installed at the Yacht Haven for use by visitors and stakeholders within the receiving range of the facility. 75% of the income received will come to FHC. Suggested this new facility be advertised in sailing journals.

Captain Killingback reported on the AIS upgrade to the receiver at Pendennis and that the new software installed can now be used for the management of the bay and anchorage areas. Mr. Ellis felt this was a good PR opportunity through Deborah Clark and the website.

Mr. Morgan enquired on the bollard pull of the new tug being purchased by Plantain Marine and working in conjunction with A&P. Noted 22 ton bollard pull.

The chart readings for the Docks basin were also queried and Mr. Reynolds advised that 3.9M was being used but that a survey of the basin area would shortly be carried out by FHC.

#### Consultative Committee Questionnaire:

Results of the Leisure Survey 2005 questionnaire prepared by the Consultative Committee were tabled.

Mr. Reynolds felt that the monitoring of craft speeding in the inner harbour should be seriously considered and Captain Sansom advised that the Marine Safety Committee hope to effect a strategy for the coming season with all the estuary authorities co-operating to deal with this issue. Consideration will be given to CCTV/technology/helmet camera etc as forms of deterrent but these all have quite serious cost implications.

Captain Killingback will be visiting Salcombe Harbour shortly to observe their operation where they already use a speed camera to regulate speeding craft.

Cleanliness of the harbour was also highlighted in the survey and Captain Sansom reported that this had improved over the last twelve months since the introduction of the new seagull proof rubbish bins. The possibility of a dual-purpose vessel to act as a water taxi/cleaning up vessel was also being considered.

Mr. Bottomley felt this had been a good survey with excellent results but was critical of the level of detail in the summary presented to the Board.

#### Ports Policy Conference:

Details of a Ports Policy Conference on 29/30 March 2006 and to be held in London was tabled. Agreed Mr. Ellis, Mr. Fish and Captain Sansom would attend.

The Board also requested a training day for Commissioners be programmed during the current year.

#### Harbour Master's Journal:

The Harbour Master's Journal was noted and signed.

#### Finance:

**Insurance – Limit of Indemnity:** Quotations for increased cover are being sought.

**December Management Accounts:** Full copies of the Management Accounts for the year to 31 December 2005 were tabled. The final figures shown in the accounts show a better than expected result, this partly due to the increased harbour dues introduced for 2005.

Mr. Reynolds queried why the smallcraft moorings return was below budget. Advised that not so many allocations made during the year which had reduced the anticipated income.

Mr. Reynolds also enquired how much could be expected on the sale of the LK MITCHELL. Captain Sansom advised a figure in excess of £60k. Capt Killingback suggested that 100K may be achievable on today's market.

Mr. Morgan highlighted the over-budget figure on the repairs to PENDENNIS. Captain Killingback explained that substantial

repairs had been carried out in the engine rooms. This work had been undertaken by Falmouth Boat Construction.

**Contribution to Fireworks:** A letter from Joke Snel, Tourism Assistant, Carrick District Council, regarding a contribution towards the fireworks for Falmouth Week was tabled. After consideration the Board agreed they would sponsor the fireworks with a donation of £3000 + VAT. In addition they would expect a half page advert in the Regatta Week programme free of charge.

Correspondence:

a. **Matthew Taylor MP:** A letter from Matthew Taylor MP thanking Captain Sansom for the update on port plans was tabled. His suggestion that he and Julia Goldsworthy MP meet with Captain Sansom so that they can talk through issues raised was welcomed by the Board. A meeting in London would be considered for ease of arrangements.

b. **Iain Fish – Falmouth Marine School:** A letter from Iain Fish, Watersports Instructor, Falmouth Marine School, requesting a donation from the Commissioners towards a fundraising expedition to be undertaken by students from the Marine School was tabled. After discussion to the Board voted 4 – 1 to decline this request.

Mr. Ellis suggested a budget be set for requests such as the above and delegated authority given to the Chief Executive to approve payments. It was agreed that the regeneration sub committee would produce guidelines for such payments.

c. **Paul Walton – Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:** A letter from Mr. Walton expressing concerns on the proposals for ship to ship transfers in Falmouth Bay. After discussion the Board agreed that Captain Sansom to phone Mr. Walton in due course to discuss concerns.

d. **Emma – North Devon Hospice:** A request from Emma Lowe, Community Fundraising Assistant, North Devon Hospice, for support for a Sail Around Britain trip to be undertaken to raise funds for the hospice was tabled. The vessel with four ladies onboard will be in Falmouth for four nights from 2 May next and the Board agreed the charge for their stay should be 50% of the normal rate published.

e. **Mark Osborn – Shrimper Owners Association Event:** A letter from Mark Osborn of the Shrimper Owners Association giving details of a rally to be held in Falmouth from 17/24 June next was tabled. Mr. Osborn requests use of

the Yacht Haven Pontoons for some 30 – 40 vessels on the night of 19 June and has offered £400 payment in advance. On the advice of Captain Sansom the Board agreed that the charge should be the published berthing rate for each vessel.

**f. The Rt.Hon. The Baroness Dean of Thornton-le-Fylde:**

A letter from Baroness Dean enclosing a copy of Hansard giving a report on a debate Baroness Dean initiated in the House of Lords on the South West, with special mention of the Docks scheme, was received.

**g. National Maritime Museum Cornwall:** An invitation from the Maritime Museum to Commissioners and employees to an informal reception to of the new Cornish Voices ‘Hevva, Hevva’ schools workshops was tabled. The reception to be held anytime between 20-31 March. The Board agreed this would be a good opportunity for a staff meeting to bring them up to date.

The meeting ended at 1305 hours

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday 24 February 2006.