

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON  
FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER 2003 AT 1000 HOURS**

Present: Mr. P.F. Bickford Chairman  
Mr. A.M.B. Bell  
Mr. J.P. Bottomley  
Mr. P.J. Morgan  
Mr. N.J. Offord  
Mr. M.R. Orton  
Mr. M.D. Reynolds  
Captain M.J. Sansom Chief Executive

In Attendance: Mr. B.R. Buist Administration Officer  
Mrs. B. Jenkins Secretary

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 4 September 2003 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

**Modernising Trust Ports: A Guide to Good Governance:**

a. **Harbour Revision Order:** Captain Sansom advised that he had spoken to Parliamentary Agents who informed him that there had been no response from the Department whatsoever in respect the Order.

POST MEETING NOTE – Have been advised by Parliamentary Agent that we should have clearance to advertise Order next week.

b. **Community Relations – Draft Newsletter:** A draft copy of the next newsletter to be circulated to stakeholders was tabled for information and comment. A photo newsletter has also been included in this issue with the co-operation of David Barnicoat. It is the intention to just send out a single sheet to our customers and the additional information will be published via the website.

Captain Sansom reported that the website is currently being re-vamped and it is hoped that from 1 November next extracts from the PIMS system will be included on the website giving current information on the shipping movements within the port. It is also hoped in due course to include an events calendar which will display as much detail as possible on all the activities taking place in the port throughout the year. It is the intention to make the website as informative as possible.

**Port Marine Safety Code: Falmouth Bay Monitoring:**

Captain Sansom reported that the MCA Estates department and our architects are exploring the means of anchoring the radar mast at the site. An exploratory bore hole is required. Nothing further to report.

**Maerl Dredging:** An interim report on the maerl survey carried out by Posford Haskoning had been circulated to members. Captain Sansom felt it was a positive report identifying the levels of maerl and the effect on the habitats in the sampled areas.

After discussion on the draft report the Board recommended that a copy be forwarded to English Nature as soon as possible for their information with no comments from FHC at this stage.

The final report should be available from Posford Haskoning within the next two weeks.

**Docks Development and Dredging Proposals:** Captain Sansom advised that the application for funding in respect of the proposed new dredged had been completed and forwarded to the RDA.

Mr. Reynolds reported that the outline proposal had been passed to the RDA's consultants Hyder who would in due course report back on their findings. The Docks Board would hope to have a decision on the application for their December meeting.

**Waterfront Development:** Captain Sansom informed the Board that he had written to John Winskill, Chief Executive, CDC, notifying him that FHC whilst supportive of a development that would benefit the Town did not consider that they should be a development partner in the scheme.

Mr. Bottomley reported that CDC had now done their public consultation on the three options published and had held a public meeting for members of the town to express their views.

Mr. Bottomley felt that a development from Prince of Wales Pier to the Church Street car park, as previously presented by the Town Centre Forum, and which is a financially viable scheme should have been included in the current proposals. He intends to press for this scheme to be considered as the appropriate development at this stage.

The Chairman expressed his concern that FHC involvement with the development may give the impression that the Board are helping to drive the development along. Members agreed

that FHC support for John Winskill should be recorded but that at this stage the Board should take a neutral stance in the preliminary discussions.

A letter expressing the Board's concern that Option 3 is considered to extend too far along the waterfront and that they would favour a reduced scheme be sent to CDC.

Captain Sansom agreed to attend the steering group meetings on the waterfront development with Mr. Bottomley.

**Falmouth Water Sports Association:** Reported that a Directors meeting had been held recently and Captain Sansom felt encouraged as the Directors are now getting more involved with the running of the Association in conjunction with the Manager.

Mr. Orton said he felt encouraged by the last meeting and the attitude of the Directors. The Manager was carrying out his duties well although had experienced considerable difficulties with recruiting sufficient catering staff.

The internet facility is now up and running and it was suggested that advertising of the Association and its facilities could be linked with the Yacht Haven in some way.

A review of the dishwashing facilities is being carried out.

**Infrastructure:** Captain Sansom reported that planning applications in respect of a new workshop and store at the Boat Park had been submitted to CDC.

The new window designs are progressing along with new logo proposals.

**Oil Spill MT BRABOURNE:** Captain advised that an investigation into the oil spill on 3 September 2003 had been conducted by Crescent Shipping and Chevron Texaco and that he held a copy of the outcome of the investigation.

#### Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report for the period 29 August to 3 October 2003 was received and adopted.

Mr. Morgan commented on the very positive figures recorded for August and especially on the commercial front.

Mr. Reynolds enquired if the one day (24 hour) harbour charge had increased the number of vessels calling at the port.

Captain Sansom felt that the end of the year may be the best time to assess the number of vessels calling in this category.

Mr. Bottomley offered congratulations on the success of the Yacht Haven this season.

Harbour Master's Journal:

The Harbour Master's Journal was noted and signed.

Finance:

**Profit and Loss Account – August 2003:** Proposed by Mr. Morgan, seconded by the Chairman, the Profit and Loss Account for August 2003 was approved.

**Mooring Charges 2004:** Captain Sansom reported that following a meeting with staff it was decided the overall the management of the moorings in the harbour area. The following proposals were put forward –

- Abolish the £20 Deposit
- Issue a full invoice in February
- Full payment of invoice by end of March
- Abolish the charges in relation to boat length
- Introduce charges in respect of facility length

After discussion the Board agreed that they were minded to introduce the changes but requested that this item be presented to the next Consultative Committee meeting and any concerns referred back to the November Board meeting.

**Tier 2 Contract Renewal:** Captain Sansom advised the Board that the current contract with OSRL to provide oil spill response equipment etc. would cease on 13 October next.

A new contract with CETO had been negotiated at a much reduced fee of £1,000. CETO would check the equipment currently held by FHC and would also be involved with two training exercises in the port as part of the contract.

The Board approved the new contract with CETO and suggested that perhaps further stocks of equipment could be purchased with the monies saved by changing suppliers.

**VAN GOGH:** A meeting to discuss port charges for the VAN GOGH will be held on 21 October.

#### Port Waste Reception Regulations:

A paper on the Port Waste Reception Regulations which came into force on 15 July 2003 was circulated to members.

Captain Sansom informed that the UK had signed up to these regulations although many EU countries had not yet implemented them.

There appears to be some confusion as to whether Falmouth requires to provide such adequate waste reception facilities as detailed in the regulations throughout its Area including the part categorised as “at sea”. The introduction of appropriate charges for vessels using the facilities would also have to be considered.

After much discussion the Board recommended that we should wait for further guidance from the MCA before making any final decisions.

#### International Ship and Port Security Code:

A brief paper giving some details of the Code was circulated to members.

Captain Sansom reported that he had completed and returned the assessment questionnaire to TRANSSEC who informed him that as the port did not handle passenger vessels or vessels on international voyages, then the requirements of the Code did not apply. However as both passenger ships and vessels on international voyages do visit the port, Captain Sansom notified TRANSSEC accordingly. A revised assessment is now awaited.

#### Downing St. Listener:

Mr. Bell advised that he would be attending a meeting of the Downing St Lister at Cornwall College on 23 October next, and asked if it was in order for him to speak on issues that have been raised at Board level. This was agreed and he will liaise with the Chairman and Chief Executive prior to the meeting.

#### Loan of BP Tanker Model:

Mr. Bell informed the Board that he had been exploring the possibility of having on loan a model of a ship for display in the newly revamped office window. He had contacted several shipping companies and BP had tentatively agreed they may be able to help. The model eventually considered was the BRITISH RESOURCE but on viewing, Mr. Bell discovered

that the model was 4 metres long and therefore too large for the display area available. Security and sunlight were also seen as difficulties on this occasion. No further action will be taken.

Correspondence:

**Candy Atherton MP:** A letter from Candy Atherton was tabled in which she advised that she had been hearing from harbour users their concerns regarding the appointment of members to the Harbour Board.

Captain Sansom informed the Board that he was meeting with Ms. Atherton that afternoon to discuss this issue.

Ms. Atherton also raised the issue of rubbish in the harbour and had copied a letter of complaint from Ernest Howey. Captain Sansom said that staff currently monitor the quays and harbour and the Board felt that perhaps a meeting with the Town Centre Manager to discuss this issue would be useful. The Board felt that the town as a whole need to tackle the rubbish problem.

**Michael Webb:** A letter from Michael Webb, Port Pendennis Marina, was received in which he referred to the recent oil spill incident in the harbour. He understood that all bunkering took place in the Bay other than when the weather is inclement, when the Carrick Roads were used for this service.

After discussion on this subject it was agreed by the Board that Captain Sansom meet with Mr Webb to discuss his concerns.

**Cornwall Maritime Trust:** A letter from the Trust advised that they would be carrying out restoration work on Barnabas and wish to use the allocated mooring for their vessel SOFTWING in the future. The Board were advised that the Cornwall Maritime Trust had been supported for some time with free moorings. After discussion members agreed that the allocation of a mooring without charge should continue for the Trust.

Notification of a filmshow by the Trust on 11 October at the WI Hall, Webber Street, was tabled. Proceeds to the Barnabas Appeal.

Invitations to HNMLS WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN in the Docks on 31 October were available to Commissioners.

A cocktail party sponsored by Foot Anstey Sargent will be held at the NMMC on 7 November and Commissioners are invited.

The Falmouth Oyster Festival opens on 16 October and members of the Board are invited.

The Chairman tabled correspondence in respect of Cornwall Marine Network as the membership is now up for renewal. The Board approved renewal at £100.

The meeting ended at 1215 hours.

The next Board meeting will be held on **Friday 28 November 2003.**