

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 19 APRIL 2002 AT 1000 HOURS**

Present: Councillor P.F. Bickford Chairman
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: Mrs. B. Jenkins Secretary

Apologies were received from Mr. A.M.B. Bell,

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on Friday 22 March 2002 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

Modernising Trust Ports: A Guide to Good Governance:

a. Harbour Revision Order: Captain Sansom reported there was no progress to report on the HRO and that he is still awaiting reply from the DTLR.

b. Correspondence - Mr. Barton: Correspondence received from Matthew Taylor MP and Mr. Barton on the issue as to whether the Commissioners have the right to make charges for vessels anchoring and transiting within the harbour area had been circulated. Captain Sansom tabled his original reply to Mr. Taylor. After discussion the Board agreed that Captain Sansom should write to Mr. Taylor noting Mr. Barton's comments and inviting Mr. Barton to the office to meet with Captain Sansom to address the various issues raised in his letters.

c. Public Meeting: The low attendance at the public meeting held on 26 March was discussed. The Board concluded that although the turnout was smaller than at the previous meeting it may well reflect their success at providing information to the public by other means. It was agreed that the Board should look at ways of encouraging a greater attendance. It was suggested that in 2003 the meeting might be held at the National Maritime Museum.

Port Marine Safety Code: Consultation Document:

A consultation document on harbour monitoring had been circulated for information. The Board agreed that it should now be circulated to pilots, pilot boat crews and other interested parties for consultation and comment. The Board recognised the importance of liaising closely with the pilots on this subject.

Reported that a radar trial would be held in July and Mr. Morgan queried the possibility of transmitting and displaying weather and tidal conditions through the same software. The suppliers would advise on this during the trial.

Waterfront Developments: Reported that no further information on the waterfront developments was available.

Mr. Bottomley advised that a new document on the Objective 1

funding had been received by the Town Centre Forum. They had returned their views but no other progress to date.

Summary of Powers: Revised Charging Proposal:

Captain Sansom reported that a further sub-committee meeting to discuss the response to consultation had been held.

A letter from the Chamber of Shipping was tabled which stated that the Chamber were not opposed to the changes as detailed.

The following areas were addressed by the sub-committee:

- * Vessels anchoring in the added harbour limits would be charged from 1 July next.

- * Transiting the Harbour area in the extended limits would remain as free for those not anchoring.

- * 24 hour charge -

- A charge of 1p per gt for an indefinite period in the added limits.

- A charge of 1p per gt for first 24 hours in the original harbour limits, i.e. Zone Point to Rosemullion Head, and 7p per gt thereafter.

Noted that FHC would incur additional expenses in respect of insurance cover required in respect of any oil spills and the clean up involved.

- * Shelter Dean Quarry - vessels taking shelter due to weather conditions would incur the 1p charge if anchoring within harbour limits.

The Board agreed the above amendments and requested the charges be distributed for consultation and comment. A revised copy to be available at the next meeting of the Board prior to final publication.

Maerl Dredging: Reported no further contact with English Nature. Captain Sansom agreed that the evaluation survey on the maerl reserves would be completed before the end of 2002.

Harbour Office Re-roofing: Reported that the work to the office building was now almost complete. Some attention to the shop front still had to be addressed.

The grant for the project had already been received and the accounts for the overall work would be available at the next Board meeting

Dock Development Proposals: Mr. Reynolds reported little progress to date. A public display of the development was on view at the Public Library.

Outline planning is now being put together and a meeting in respect of the funding would take place shortly.

Single Estuarial Authority: Captain Sansom reported that he would be writing to Captain Brigden on this subject shortly.

Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report for the period 15 March to 12 April 2002 was received and adopted.

Mr. Reynolds noted the drop in shipping movements for the first three months of 2002.

Councillor Bickford asked for details of the Eastern Breakwater development to be carried out by FOS.

Harbour Master's Journal:

The Harbour Master's Journal was noted and signed.

Finance:

Profit and Loss Account - February 2002: Proposed by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Bottomley, the Profit and Loss Account for the month of February 2002 was approved.

It is hoped to have the comparisons with the 2002 budget available at the next Board meeting.

Pilotage Future Arrangements:

Reported that Councillor Bickford and Mr. Morgan had attended their first meeting with the pilots since the cessation of the Pilotage Management Committee.

Discussion on how to go forward towards 4 August 2003 had been helpful and productive and the pilots expressed their appreciation for the frank and open meeting.

It was agreed that Councillor Bickford and Mr. Morgan will meet with the pilots monthly following the pilots operational meetings. The plan for discussion was agreed as -

Port Control
Pilotage Directions
Contractual Matters

The pilotage presentation arranged to follow this meeting was postponed and will now take place at 0930 hours on Friday 24 May prior to the next Board meeting.

Captain Sansom advised that a presentation Pilotage Legislation and other related matters was planned to be held in Plymouth in May. He will obtain further details.

Correspondence:

Any Other Business:

Mr. Orton tabled a letter to Chris Blount of Radio Cornwall in respect of his programme “behind closed doors” which looks at the activities and workings of businesses and organisations within Cornwall.

The letter invites Chris Blount to consider the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners as a possible interesting subject for such a programme and to liaise with Captain Sansom should he wish to progress in the future.

The Commissioners all agreed to the letter being forwarded.

The meeting ended at 1205 hours.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday 24 May 2002 at **0930 hours. It will be preceded by a presentation on Pilotage.**