

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2006 AT 1000 HOURS**

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

Apologies were received from Dr. K. Sumser-Lupson.

In Attendance: Mrs. B. Jenkins Secretary

The Minutes of the Board meeting held on 3 February 2006 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

Docks Development and Dredging Proposals: Mr. Reynolds reported on and tabled notes of the meeting held with SWRDA and GOSW in Exeter on 10 February last.

A spreadsheet projecting cruise ship calls to the Port up to 2009 was considered and from which possible passenger levies could be raised to help repay possible funding from the RDA.

Captain Sansom advised that a meeting would be held on 22 March next to consider ways of repaying funding.

Proposed by Mr. Bottomley, seconded by Mr. Ellis and carried that a proposal similar to that drafted be put forward to the RDA. It was noted that the RDA may require the repayment to be underwritten and it was agreed to discuss proposals for this with interested parties if required.

Mr. Ellis reported that he had met with Mr. Frank Twining, acting Chief Executive of Cornwall County Council. Subsequently he and Captain Sansom had met with Doris Ansari, the Chief Executive, Andrew Mitchell – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development for the County Council, and John Berry of Cornwall Enterprise. The outcome of the meeting was very positive and it was felt that the County are keen to take a lead in progressing the Docks development. Doris Ansari has requested that timelines be drawn up by the end of 2006. It is hoped that the CCC will support with funding towards the project and a contribution towards the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Councillor Mitchell and Roger Bonney, Mayor of Falmouth, will be meeting with Captain Sansom on 8 March to discuss various issues and it is hoped to take them out on the Pilot Boat to familiarise them firsthand of the dredging proposals etc. A visit to the Docks will be arranged for another date.

Captain Sansom informed the Board that he had recently met with Roger Bonney informally for coffee and agreed that key County Council members and others visit the Docks when a cruise ship is in Port with the possibility of a boat trip around the vessel and a tour of the dredged channel to highlight need for future dredging.

Mr. Reynolds reported that grants to Destination SW will cease next year. He felt that Cornwall County Council and Cornwall Enterprise might assist with funding for the future.

Waterfront Development: A draft reply to Carrick District Council of the Board's views on the Falmouth & Penryn Action Plan was tabled. The Board agreed the letter be forwarded to Terry Grove-White of the Planning Department in due course.

Infrastructure – Temporary Building on North Quay: A letter from Miller Commercial regarding the land at North Quay was tabled. On their appointment Miller Commercial will charge £1250 plus VAT which will cover a marketing period of six months. The potential income from the site is £2,000 per annum. Anticipated that the portacabin will be removed from the site if not required for the winter months. The Board agreed to go ahead for this project.

Ship to Ship Transfers: Captain Sansom reported on the presentation to Kerrier District Council and the proposals for ship to ship transfers. A good debate on the subject followed which included representatives from Fendercare, the County Council and English Nature. Kerrier's decision will be made when the oil plan has been revised.

Captain Sansom also reported that he had spoken with Steve Winston, Emergency Planning Officer, who advised that the County Council may agree the oil pollution plan when the changes and amendments have been addressed.

Noted that Captain Sansom plans to have a meeting with all consultees in early May to discuss around the table with OSRL the amendments that are required to the oil pollution plan. The MCA will be invited to attend this meeting. When the plan is signed off by all parties it will be presented to the MCA who will carry out the appropriate assessment.

Deborah Clark Associates to be made aware of the May meeting.

Public Relations Opportunities: Captain Sansom reported that he had spoken with DC Associates re current progress.

The spring newsletter has been drafted and will be circulated for approval.

Agreed the annual Safety Award should continue and the Consultative Committee to be asked for suggestions as to how to improve response.

Mr. Ellis suggested that perhaps the Board put up sponsorship for a graduate/postgraduate student from the Marine School or Combined University of Cornwall to research a particular area/subject – the information gained could be put to good use by FHC. The Consultative Committee to be asked for their comments and for other suggestions.

Purchase of New Pilot Boat – Boat Name and Naming Ceremony: Confirmed that the new build is proceeding well. Halmatic require details of the name for certification etc. Agreed to release the name publicly via a press release.

Naming Ceremony – proposed the weekend of 14/15 October depending on Lady Mary Holborow's availability. Mr Ellis will check. The ceremony to start at 1130 hours to be followed by lunch. Confirmation of the date at the next Board meeting.

Captain Sansom advised that BP had made enquiries regarding the undertaking of bunkering operations in Falmouth Bay from their base in Portland.

Commissioner Appointments: A letter from Dr. Karen Sumser-Lupson confirming her acceptance of the post of Harbour Commissioner was tabled. Dr. Sumser-Lupson will attend the next meeting of the Board on 31 March.

Ports Policy Conference: Confirmed that the conference places and accommodation for Commissioners and the Chief Executive attending had been booked.

Staff Event at NMMC: Captain Sansom reported that the Lecture Theatre at the NMMC had been booked for Monday 27 March. It is anticipated the timings as under –

12noon – 1 p.m. Staff Meeting

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. Lunch
2 p.m. Cornish Voices Performance

Public Meeting – To be held in the Lecture Theatre at the NMMC on Wednesday 5 April – time to be confirmed.

Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report for the period 27 January to 17 February 2006 was received and adopted.

Mr. Bell asked of the trainee pilot interviews had been successful. Captain Sansom advised that Jason Willis-Richards had been offered the post of trainee pilot and that the first three months of his salary whilst training would be paid by FHC.

Mr. Bottomley asked that Lady Mary's surname be correctly spelt.

Mr. Bell asked if Captain Sansom had been invited to the launch of the Fire Fighters around the Coast initiative, Captain Sansom advised he had not been invited.

Mr. Fish noted the positive increase in the movements figures for January 2006 and asked if this trend is likely to continue. Captain Sansom advised that past trends in shipping movements were an unreliable basis for projections.

Regeneration Strategy:

The Regeneration Strategy Committee gave a report on their recent meeting in which they addressed the overall strategic aim of the Commissioners for the five years to 2011. A paper outlining their proposals was tabled and members were requested to peruse the document and submit their ideas or changes to the paper prior to the next Board meeting.

The Board agreed that for this year an Annual Report only should be distributed and in due course a long term Strategy Document will be produced.

Grants – It is felt that a framework for the allocation of grants should be drawn up in line with the strategy document.

Guidelines and a scoring system to be drafted by Captain Sansom.

The Board recorded their thanks to the three members of the Regeneration committee for their input and report.

Harbour Master's Journal:

The Harbour Master's Journal was noted and signed.

Finance:

Profit and Loss Account – January 2006: Proposed by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Bell, the Profit and Loss Account for the month of January 2006 was received and adopted.

Correspondence:

a. **Matthew Pontin – Three Rivers Project:** A request from Matthew Pontin for funding towards the Three Rivers Project was received. After discussion the Board agreed to support up to the sum of £300 and Captain Sansom to negotiate the inclusion of the FHC logo on the published copy.

b. **MAIB Inquiry:** A copy of a letter from the MAIB on the investigation of the collision between CARRIE KATE and KETS on 16 July 2005 was tabled. It was noted that the report had been amended in light of comments made by FHC after reviewing the draft. There was a recommendation in respect of future actions required addressed to Falmouth Harbour Commissioners, St Mawes Pier and Harbour Company and Carrick District Council. It was agreed that these actions should be formulated by the Marine Safety Committee and minutes provided to the MAIB showing action being taken in respect of the issues raised.

c. **Notice of Adjournment:** Correspondence from Cornwall Witness Care advising that the case against Mr. Colver will be heard at West Cornwall (Truro) Magistrates Court on 24 March next. It advises that Captain Sansom will not be required to attend.

d. **RFA Association:** An invitation to sponsor a raffle prize at a reunion dinner of the RFAA Solent Branch to be held on 6 May 2006 in Southampton was tabled. The Board declined the opportunity to sponsor a prize.

e. **Department of Transport – Inquiry into Allegations from Dr M Hoskin:** Allegations sent to the Department of Transport by Dr. M. Hoskin had been circulated to members.

Captain Sansom advised that he had spoken to the Department who advised that they would like the Board to respond to the allegations.

Captain Sansom suggested that he go to the Department to discuss the matter with them after the preliminary response had been sent.

The meeting ended at 1300 hours.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday 31 March 2006.