

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON
FRIDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2004 AT 1030 HOURS**

Present:	Mr. P.F. Bickford	Chairman
	Mr. A.M.B. Bell	
	Mr. J.P. Bottomley	
	Mr. P.J. Morgan	
	Mr. N. Offord	
	Mr. M.R. Orton	
	Mr. M.D. Reynolds	
	Captain M.J. Sansom	Chief Executive
In Attendance:	Captain M.B. Killingback	Deputy Harbour Master
	Mr. B.R. Buist	Leisure Services Manager
	Mrs. B. Jenkins	Secretary

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 8 October 2004 and the Budget Meeting held on 12 November 2004 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising:

Modernising Trust Ports: A Guide to Good Governance:

a. Harbour Revision Order: A decision letter from the Department for Transport was tabled. The letter states that the Secretary of State is satisfied that the making of the 2004 Order is desirable in the interests of securing the improvement, maintenance and management of the Harbour in an efficient and economical manner. All objections to the Order have been dealt with and dismissed. It is anticipated that the signed Order will be received within the next ten days.

b. Advertisement for New Commissioners: Captain Sansom advised that he had spoken with Parliamentary Agents regarding the new Commissioner appointments due to be in place by 31 December next. Two options were possible for dealing with this issue –

Following advertisement and interview, new appointments could be made by mid-January 2005

Current Commissioners due to finish at the end of 2004 could be re-appointed and resign in 2005 and new appointments made following advertisement.

The advice from Parliamentary Agents is awaited.

A draft advertisement for the 3 posts was tabled for consideration. Following amendments the Board agreed the content.

Noted that existing Commissioners can re-apply for their post.

The Board noted that a Consultative Committee representative will sit on the selection panel.

POST MEETING NOTE: P.A. advises third option is to amend the Order to read “as soon as practicable after 31st December” for initial appointments. This is being put to the Department.

Port Marine Safety Code: Falmouth Bay Monitoring:
Captain Sansom reported that he had spoken with the MCA regarding access to their AIS equipment. He had subsequently contacted their administration for an application form but to date had received no reply.

Use of AIS will aid the monitoring of Ship to ship transfers. It was noted that all vessels over 300 tonnes will have AIS by 2005. All vessels carrying dangerous or polluting goods are already fitted.

Maerl Dredging: Correspondence from English Nature, Defra and Cornish Calcified Seaweed was tabled. English Nature have advised that FHC should cease the issuing of licences for the extraction of maerl from the end of this year. Defra in their letter quoted the recent European Court of Justice test case and provided their interpretation of this.

After much discussion the Board reluctantly resolved that there was no option but to cease the issue of licences to Cornish Calcified Seaweed as from 1 January 2005. A press release to be issued expressing the Board’s regret at the need to discontinue the maerl dredging.

A copy of the press release to be circulated to Commissioners prior to publication.

Docks Development and Dredging Proposals: Mr. Reynolds reported that they are waiting for the results of the sampling and the environmental scooping which should be available from

Posford Haskoning on 6 December next. This will identify the likely costs of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Mr. Reynolds advised that a letter from Richard Bailey stated that the next meeting to discuss the results had been moved to February 2005. The question of funding for the development is still causing some concern.

Wreck Removal – Penryn River: No further report.

Waterfront Development – This item transferred to the end of the agenda.

Infrastructure: Workshop – Mark Killingback had spoken to the Architects recently and building regulations have been applied for. It is hoped to go to tender for the project and local builders have been advised that the tender document will be available in the near future.

The minutes of the Land and Assets Sub-Committee meeting were tabled. The recommendations made were –

Planning permission North Quay – the Board agreed that we consult with planning experts as to whether the Board should re-apply for further planning permission for North Quay.

Noted that there were restrictions in the planning permission for the Yacht Haven that required to be added to the North Quay database entry.

Some discussion on the licensed car parking on North Quay identified that the area was not available for public use. Suggested that the section opposite the shower block could be used by the public house for outside tables. The Board suggested that a press release be issued requesting ideas for the improved use of North Quay other than for car parking. Mr. Bottomley and the Chief Executive to draft the press release.

Mr. Bottomley felt the car parking charges for licensed spaces were too low.

Public Relations Opportunities: Captain Sansom advised that he had written to Terry Wilkes who is to receive the marine safety award at the Safety Committee annual general meeting to be held on 17 December next at the Maritime Museum.

Purchase of New Pilot Boat: Captain Killingback reported that he had met with Halmatic to discuss the purchase of a new pilot boat. Along with Captain Barnicoat he will be visiting Teesport to look at their prototype vessel and obtain the pilots views. The decision on who might build the vessel has yet to be considered.

Chief Executive's Report:

The Chief Executive's Report for the period 1 October to 19 November 2004 was received and adopted.

Harbour Master's Journal:

The Harbour Master's Journal was noted and signed.

Finance:

Profit and Loss Accounts – September & October 2004: Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Bottomley, the Profit and Loss Accounts for September and October 2004 were received and adopted.

Budget with Revised Cost Allocations: Amended budget sheets showing the headline figures and the way the accounts are applied were tabled. Increased income from the pilot charges had been included along with corrected figures for the Boat Park income.

To Approve new Pilot Boat Charges: The pilot boat charges for 2005 were tabled and approved by the Board.

Proposed Dates for Board Meetings 2005:

A list of proposed dates for Board meetings in 2005 was tabled.

Correspondence:

- a. **Captain R.A. Berry** – A letter from Captain Berry was received advising that he would be retiring as a Falmouth Pilot from 30 June 2005. Captain Sansom advised that he is working with FPP on the recruitment and that the Board will have to advertise and train a new pilot, following which the successful candidate will transfer to FPP.
- b. **Reverend Steven Tudgey**: A letter from the Reverend Tudgey requesting the use of the Custom House quay for an ecumenical service between Falmouth Churches Together and the Mission to Seafarers on Sunday 14 August 2005 was tabled. The Board approved this request.
- c. **Mr. P. Rugg – Falmouth Week**: A request from Mr. Rugg for sponsorship of the fireworks in Falmouth Week 2005 was tabled. The Board approved the payment of £3,000 towards the fireworks for 2005.
- d. **Mr. P. Rugg – Oyster Festival**: A request from Mr. Rugg to use Custom House Quay for the Oyster Festival in 2005 was tabled. Following discussion the Board declined this request.
- e. **Captain A. Brigden – Marine Cluster Study**: A letter from Captain Brigden asking if the Commissioners would be interested in becoming involved in a marine cluster study and making a financial contribution towards the study. After discussion the Board felt that sufficient studies already existed on this subject.
- f. **Cornish Christmas Harmony Choir**: A request from the Secretary of the Cornish Christmas Harmony Choir for a donation towards their 2004 Christmas Eve event was tabled. The Board agreed a £50 donation be forwarded.

The meeting ended at 1310 hours.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday 14 January 2005 at 1000 hours.