

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD AT EAST PORTLEMOUTH VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY, 23 MARCH 2009**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J Brazil – Chairman

* Dr C C Harling – Vice-Chairman

* Cllr J H Baverstock	* Mr J Barrett
* Cllr R D Gilbert	* Mr T Bass
∅ Cllr M J Hicks	* Mr H Marriage
	* Mr M O'Brien
	* Mr P Waring

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apologies for absence

Members in attendance and participating:
Cllr P Coulson

Officers in attendance:

All Agenda Items: Head of Service (Salcombe Harbour), South Devon AONB
Estuaries Officer, Assistant Harbour Master (Administration) and Senior Member
Support Officer

SH.47/08 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Salcombe Harbour Board held on 26 January 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.48/08 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman advised that he had agreed for three items of urgent business to be raised at the meeting. These were recorded as follows:-

1. The Chairman wished to welcome Rob Moore, the newly elected Chairman of the Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club to his first meeting of the Board;
2. A request had been received from Frogmore Parish Council for a pontoon to be sited in the creek. It was noted that the Harbour Master would look into the feasibility of the proposal and present his findings to a future meeting the Board;
3. In relation to the recent dredging which had taken place in the Harbour, initial findings have found it to be a great success. Post Dredge environmental monitoring was due to be carried out on the sea bed during mid-April, following this a full report on the outcome of the dredging would be produced by the Environmental Monitoring Consultant. No reports of adverse environmental impact had been received by the harbour.

SH.49/08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting, but none were made.

SH.50/08 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Three members of the public wished to utilise the public question time session. These comments were recorded as follows:-

Peter Read – Vice-Chairman of East Portlemouth Parish Council

Mr Read raised concern in relation to the water taxi service highlighting the importance of its operation to the holiday homes in East Portlemouth as a connection to Salcombe. In response the Board recognised the importance of this service, which had previously been discussed by the Board at its meeting of 3 November 2008 (minute SH.35/08 refers) where it was resolved to maintain the evening service to East Portlemouth, subject to prevailing weather conditions allowed this. Furthermore, it was noted that a meeting was to be held with the operator of the East Portlemouth Ferry.

Patrick Smith – South Pool resident

Mr Smith queried whether progressed had been made on marking out a channel in the creek at South Pool. In response, the Harbour Master explained that this was a considerable project and currently there were no resources available to progress it.

Furthermore, Mr Smith also questioned the prospect of extending the pontoon in South Pool creek, to which the Harbour Master confirmed that there were no spare pontoons available.

Andrew Head – local business owner

Mr Head advised those present that he currently ran a water sports business which involved water skiing and wake boarding outside the estuary. He noted that at times there were possible health and safety risks due to either choppy conditions or an increased number of vessels using that area. Consequently, Mr Head questioned the feasibility of establishing a designated skiing/wakeboarding area within the estuary. He felt that by doing so, a safe haven could be created for when conditions were unsuitable outside the Bag. Furthermore, it would create better governance arrangements for water sport activities.

During discussion on this request, the Board questioned whether it would be held responsible if an accident were to occur outside of the Harbour Limites. Whilst outside the authority of the Harbour Board, a Board Member was under the impression that South Hams District Council could be held responsible for incidents which occurred, up to 1000metres off the coast. If this were the case, Members therefore

raised concern over whether the Council were aware of its jurisdiction and consequently the Board agreed to write to the Council to outline these concerns.

In relation to establishing a designated skiing area, it was noted that the Board would discuss this in detail at a future meeting as part of the agenda.

SH.51/08 **FEEDBACK FROM HARBOUR COMMUNITY FORUMS**

The Board received verbal update reports from the Board Members who attended the Harbour Community Forums, during which reference was made to:-

Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary Association (SKEA)

The representative advised that the Forum had not met since the previous meeting of the Board.

Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club

A Board Member advised that a number of items had been raised at the last meeting and made particular reference to:-

- the recent AGM where a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman had been elected, plus two new committee members;
- the commencement of security patrols;
- on-going discussions for CCTV coverage in Kingsbridge;
- the clubs wish to extend its thanks to the Harbour Authority for the installation of the security gates at the Kingsbridge pontoon.

Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary Conservation Forum

The representative advised that the Forum had not met since the previous meeting of the Board

South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen

The representative advised that progress was being made on the development of a the fish quay, and stakeholders would be consulted upon the preferred designs. In terms of grant funding, it was noted that a submission to the European Union was being drawn up.

Furthermore, it was noted that the fishermen would like to extend their thanks to the Harbour Authority for the dredging works which had recently been carried out.

SH.52/08 REPLACEMENT OF BATSON PONTOONS

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval to finalise the technical specification for the Replacement of Batson Pontoons which would inform the tender process. The report concluded in stating that the public consultation exercise was successful in determining the preferences of the harbour users for the replacement pontoon system at Batson.

Having taken the feedback from the Public Consultation into account, the report proposed that the Board recommend the following key decisions:-

- the area of Batson Creek would not be capital dredged to increase the depth of water;
- the pontoons be secured on piles;
- the pontoon system be connected to the existing slipway pontoon;
- the pontoon system would not exceed 350 linear metres, which would accommodate a mixture of 2m and 2.3m berths;
- the boat lengths be restricted to 5.5m length overall;
- boats be secured by stern chains.

The Harbour Master also tabled a paper which demonstrated various options for a pontoon mixture to accommodate a mixture of 2m and 2.3m berths and the projected income the various options might generate.

During discussion, specific reference was made to:-

- a) the consultation process. A Member raised concern that the consultation might be skewed towards the opinion of those who currently had a berth. He felt that due to the survey not being distributed to those on the waiting list, current berth holders might be more inclined to want a larger berth. By retaining the beam at 2m, more berths could be accommodated with the result of reducing the waiting list;
- b) accommodating a mixture of 2m and 2.3m berths. The Harbour Master wished for the Board to indicate its preference towards accommodating a mixture of berths or whether to limit the beam to 2m. During discussion, a Member reiterated his concern that accommodating a mixture of beam sizes, would restrict the number of berths available. Subsequently, an amendment to the recommendation was **PROPOSED** to restrict the beam size to a maximum of 2m. However, in contrast, the remainder of the Board supported a combination of berth sizes and therefore no seconder was received and the motion was declared **LOST**;

- c) the importance of retaining the number of berths at no less than 245 (the current level). The majority of Members felt that in maintaining the number of berths at this level, the number of moorings could be increased at a later date if deemed necessary;
- d) amendments to the recommendation. During discussion on the recommendation, the Chairman **PROPOSED** that paragraph 4 of the presented report also be incorporate into the recommendation. In support of this, Members further suggested additions to two of the bullet points in paragraph 4 to also be incorporated as follows:-
- that the area of Batson Creek would not be capital dredged to increase the depth of water for the time being; and
 - the pontoon system would not exceed 350 linear metres, which would accommodate a mixture of 2m and 2.3m berths totalling not less than 245 berths.

These amendments were subsequently **SECONDED** and on being put to the vote declared **CARRIED**.

- e) 'traffic' on Batson slipway. Members expressed concern at the apparent high level of users of Batson slipway, and the potential risks this could generate. The Harbour Master assured those present that bollards were to be installed to segregate foot traffic at the top of the slipway and it would be monitored and managed accordingly.

RESOLVED

1. That the technical specification for the replacement pontoons, as detailed in amended paragraph 4 (as recorded in paragraph d above) and paragraph 5 of the presented report, be approved; and
2. That the Harbour Master be instructed to go out to tender to replace the Batson Pontoons during the 2009/10 winter season.

(Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 4.15 pm).

Chairman