

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD AT CLIFF HOUSE, SALCOMBE ON
MONDAY, 13 JULY 2009**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J H Baverstock – Chairman

* Mr C C Harling – Vice-Chairman

* Cllr R D Gilbert	∅ Mr J Barrett
* Cllr M J Hicks	* Mr T Bass
	∅ 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), Principal Accountant,
Assistant Harbour Master (administration), and Senior Member Support Officer

SH.11/09 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Salcombe Harbour Board held on 8 June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.12/09 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman stated that he had agreed for one item of urgent business to be raised at the meeting in relation to the speed limit at the leading line to the Harbour. A Board Member felt that, following the previous meeting of the Board where Members were minded not to support the water skiing trial as it was presented (minute SH.05/09 refers), it could be an opportune time for the byelaws to be revisited to relax the speed limit at the harbour entrance, in the vicinity of the leading line into the Harbour. In doing so, the Member felt that it would open the Harbour to a wider user group.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Board requested that the Member who raised the issue report back to a future meeting outlining a formal proposal for the Board to discuss in detail.

SH.13/09 **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.14/09 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

Nick Abraham – representative of Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club

Following the previous meeting of the Estuary Boat Club which took place on 8 July 2009, Mr Abraham raised the following issues:-

- Security concerns on the estuary. Following a query, the Harbour Master confirmed that the contracted night security patrol was in operation and provided regular reports on its workings, which included a regular presence at Kingsbridge. Furthermore, the Chairman recognised the value of the Boat Watch initiative provided by the Boat Club and wished to extend his thanks on behalf of the Board;
- Concern for health and safety of users of the slipway following the recent spring tides. The Harbour Master advised that he would ensure the slipway was cleaned appropriately;
- The Club queried whether the Board intended to carry out further dredging in the Estuary, in particular at Kingsbridge. In response, it was intended that this issue would be considered further in due course.

Paul Coulson – local Ward Member for Salcombe

Cllr Coulson expressed deep regret at the lack of elected Member representation on the Harbour Board from Salcombe Ward Members. In response, the Board stated that all Members were appointed on a 'fit for purpose' basis and a number of the Co-opted Members were Salcombe residents.

SH.15/09 **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)

- Blue Flag Status – SKEA had expressed concern over the contour ploughing of fields and its associated risks, and questioned whether this could account for the build up of silt;
- The question of yachts discharging effluents into the estuary was also raised and SKEA queried whether equipment had been acquired at a cost to avoid discharge. In response, it was stated that the Harbour operated a holding tank pump out facility and it was noted that vessels of up to a certain size and below a certain crew size were subject to discharge regulations. However, small leisure vessels were not limited to such restrictions;

- Concern over the middle moorings in the estuary on the approach to Scoble Point. It had been SKEAs understanding that these moorings had originally been laid for a paddle steamer but subsequently not removed and were, therefore, now used for visitor moorings. Their concern related to the fouling of propellers upon pick-up of these moorings (POST MEETING NOTE – the leading line to the Scoble Point Transit passed through the moorings. This was depicted on the chart by a broken line, which indicated there may be obstructions on the line of the transit. The Visitor moorings VH4, V17 and V18 had been established following a compensating reduction of moorings elsewhere in the harbour);
- Concern that the newly positioned 8 knot marker buoys were not sufficiently visible (POST MEETING NOTE – the special marks were a standard size);
- A SKEA member had questioned why the dredging project had been classified as a ‘new project’ in the accounts when the 5 year strategic plan identified it as being scheduled for the 2008/2009 financial year. It was noted that this would be answered when the Board discussed agenda item 7; Final Accounts 2008/2009 (minute SH.18/09 below refers);
- Given that the 2008/2009 figures had some exceptional entries, it was questioned whether the Board felt confident that it could contain rises in dues of 5% per annum, as the 16% from the previous year had been accepted by SKEA on the basis that this would be the case.

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 the Forum was grateful for the graph which had been provided by the Harbour Office in relation to the various length ‘v’ weight of vessels which could dry out on the fish quay slipway. Furthermore, thanks had been expressed for the fendering of the Fish Quays.

Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club

The representative advised that all points had previously been covered by Mr Abraham in the public question session (minute SH.14/09 above refers).

SH.16/09

FINAL ACCOUNTS 2008/2009

Consideration was given to a report which advised Members of the Harbour’s final trading position in 2008/2009, together with details of the main variations from the original budget. The report stated that the Harbour had generated a trading surplus for the 2008/09 financial year as well as being able to finance additional project work from revenue generated during the year, without having to further deplete reserves. It was noted that this would bolster retained reserves, and assist with the financing of future initiatives for the benefit of the Harbour users.

During discussion on the report, the following points were made:-

- a) Members referred to the query of the dredging project which had been classified as a 'new project' in the accounts, when the 5 year strategic plan had also identified it as being scheduled for the 2008/2009 financial year. In response, the Principal Accountant advised that the original intention was for the project to be funded from the Reserves Budget. However, as a surplus of funds had been generated by the Harbour, the opportunity to use this funding had become available and therefore it had been classed as a 'new project' for explanation in budgetary terms to identify that any surplus funds were not originally ring-fenced for this project;
- b) Concern was raised in relation to the Local Government Review and any subsequent consequences this may have on the Harbour's reserves in the event that a new Council was formed. However, it was noted that the current Council could not bind any pending new local authority to ring-fence monies for certain services;
- c) The Board expressed its disappointment that the working papers, which were classified as Exempt, had not been circulated to Members. It was noted that the papers, which gave a detailed breakdown of expenditure, would be circulated to the Board as a matter of priority and apologies for this omission were offered.

RESOLVED

That the final accounts for 2008/2009 as set out within Appendix A, to the presented report, be noted.

SH.17/09 **ANNUAL REPORT**

A report was considered which outlined the way in which the Harbour Board operated and described the progress made during the previous financial year. The annual report was an important means for the Harbour Board to report progress and communicate its intentions to stakeholders.

The Board noted that it was a very good and useful document.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report 2009 be published.

On conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman wished to thank the Harbour Master for the very interesting and successful tour of the Harbour which had taken place that morning.

(Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 4.20 pm).
