

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD IN THE LIBRARY, CLIFF HOUSE, SALCOMBE
ON TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2006**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J S Beer - Chairman

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| * Cllr H D Bastone | * Mr J Barrett (Salcombe and Kingsbridge Estuary Association) |
| ∅ Cllr J Brazil | * Mr T Bass (Royal Yachting Association) |
| * Cllr R J Carter | * Mr G Foale (South Devon and Channel Shellfisherman) |
| ∅ Cllr P H Cook | * Mr R Gilbert (East Portlemouth Parish Council) |
| ∅ Cllr C M Pannell | ∅ Ms L Heape (English Nature) |
| * Cllr S L Rankin | * Mr D Penwill (Salcombe Town Council) |
| * Cllr G Rothwell | * Mr E Johnson (Kingsbridge Town Council) |
| * Cllr D W S Thorning | |
| ∅ Cllr A R Vale | |

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

Officers in attendance:

All Agenda Items – Head of Property Services, Head of Service (Salcombe Harbour), Conservation Officer

SH.7/06 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 13 June 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.8/06 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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.9/06 TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES

A report was considered which informed Members of any significant issues which impacted on the operational management of Salcombe Harbour.

Harbour Master

The Chairman introduced the newly appointed Salcombe Harbour Master, Mr Ian Gibson, to the Board. During his introduction, the Chairman highlighted the positive impact the Harbour Master had already made since joining the Harbour Team on 24 July 2006. The Chairman also extended his compliments to Mr Gibson for the speed in which he had established himself in the role as Harbour Master.

Recycling Afloat

Highlighted from the report, as presented to Members, were the problems faced during the high season where a considerable strain was placed on manpower due to an excessive amount of waste being generated. The process was to be addressed over the winter months in order that a system for emptying the bins would be in place for next season.

It was also noted that a small minority of boat owners had found the initiative inadequate. However, the majority of feedback received had been positive and a number had enquired as to the possibility of glass recycling, which was to be further investigated.

Residents' Pontoon

The Board was informed that an invitation to tender was being prepared by Paul Carpenter Associates which would be submitted to six contractors, three local and three national based companies. Furthermore, an advertisement would be placed in relevant nautical publications and receipt of tenders was expected by end of October 2006. Dependant on suitability and affordability of tenders, a report was to be brought to the Harbour Board and subject to its support, a recommendation was to be put to full Council for approval to proceed.

House Boats

During discussion on this issue, the following points were raised:-

- a) Members were reminded that the size and shape of the vessels was in line with the proposals which were presented to the Board (minute reference SH.13/05 refers);

- b) Clarification was given that the disposal of the existing houseboats was in the contract for the Houseboat Company to undertake of prior to new ones being installed. A Member of the Board was concerned that a recent advertisement had suggested that the old house boats were for sale with the inclusion of a mooring, although this was not in fact the case;
- c) Concern was expressed over the perception that shared ownership and timeshares were the same. Members of the Board felt that it was important for the Harbour Office to hold the contact details of all the owners of the houseboats. However, it was confirmed that a percentage of the ownership was retained by the houseboat company;
- d) Concern over inexperienced holiday makers using power boats was aired;
- e) Members were informed that the Council's Legal Department were currently addressing any legal obligation the Council would have and what onus was on the company, especially in terms of health and safety. However, it was confirmed that the onus to maintain the houseboats was on the company. Furthermore, in an attempt to alleviate the concerns of boat residents swimming in the strong currents experienced in the estuary, the Council was insistent that the boat company include information on the varying tide strengths in their safety manual.

Harbour Guide

Following concerns as to how a £12,000 loss had been made on the 2006 guide, it was noted that this was attributed to consultancy fees and the change in size to a larger format, which was costly to produce and distribute. Following a recent meeting between the Harbour Master and Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary Association (SKEA), a proposal had been put forward to combine the Harbour Guide and the Town Guide in order to utilise resources. Following a lengthy discussion whereby Members aired concerns regarding the suitability of a joint guide, it was agreed that the Harbour Master investigate further the advantages and disadvantages of a joint guide for consideration by the Board at a future meeting. Two of the possible avenues discussed for further investigation were noted as either reverting back to the original A5 format, or to retain the new A4 format and work in conjunction with Salcombe Town Council.

Performance

Members were advised that increased income was largely due to the increase in the number of larger yachts visiting. It had been observed that the number of smaller yachts visiting the estuary had decreased and it was thought that this could be attributed to the lack of facilities available in Salcombe and therefore the smaller yachts were not receiving value for money.

Members were informed that since the publication of the report an amendment to paragraph 18 should be made in order that is read: "Overall the budget prediction for 2006, incorporating the increased income up to the end of July, are a surplus of **£12,000.**"

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

SH.10/06 CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion to the meeting, the Chairman advised that in all probability this was the last meeting of the Harbour Board as it was currently constituted. He thanked everyone for their support and hard work during their tenure on the Board, along with all the work and support of Council staff. In response, a Member of the Board proceeded to thank the Chairman for all his work.

(Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 3.45 pm).

Chairman