

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD  
HELD IN THE LIBRARY, CLIFF HOUSE, SALCOMBE ON TUESDAY, 13 JULY  
2004**

**MEMBERS**

\* Cllr J S Beer - Chairman

∅ Cllr H D Bastone	* Mr T Bass
* Cllr J Brazil	* Mr G Foale
* Cllr R J Carter	∅ Mr R Gilbert
* Cllr P H Cook	* Dr P Goldsworthy
* Cllr C M Pannell	* Mr P Howard
* Cllr S L Rankin	* Mr E Johnson
* Cllr G Rothwell	* Mr R Wheeler
* Cllr D W S Thorning	
* Cllr A R Vale	

\* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

SH.1/04      **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 16 March 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.2/04      **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman introduced and welcomed Mr Peter Howard to the Board as a newly appointed co-opted member representing Salcombe Town Council.

SH.3/04      **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 was made.

SH.4/04      **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

**RECOMMENDED**

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that Mr Robert Wheeler be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Board for the municipal year 2004/05.

**SH.5/04 MUNICIPAL PORTS REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a proposal to form a working party to prepare a response to the Municipal Ports Review Questionnaire. The Board was advised that it was proposed that the party would meet on Friday 16 July 2004 at 11.00am to prepare a response. It was noted that there was a tight timetable, as the response had to be prepared prior to its consideration by Council on Thursday 22 July 2004. Board members were advised that if they were unable to attend the working party, comments on the questionnaire could be submitted prior to the meeting and given consideration.

**RESOLVED**

That a working party comprising the Harbour Master, the Chairman of the Board, Mr T Bass, Dr P Goldsworthy and Cllr G Rothwell be formed to meet on Friday 16 July 2004 to prepare a response to the Municipal Ports Review Questionnaire for consideration by Council at its meeting on Thursday 22 July 2004.

**SH.6/04 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OPEN FORUM**

Consideration was given to a number of questions which were submitted in advance of the meeting (Questions attached as Appendix A).

**(a) Questions received from Cllr J Brazil**

- (i) Long-term strategy and development plans – to expand on his questions, Cllr Brazil advised that he hoped that Board members would contemplate methods to generate additional income and believed that there was a need for a more far sighted plan for the harbour/estuary. In response, Board members expressed caution and questioned whether there was sufficient demand for improvements and developments.

Cllr Brazil believed that as part of the Council, the Harbour should realise as much as it could for the benefit of the South Hams electorate. Further, visiting yachtsman should not be protected at a cost to local residents and he felt it to be slightly worrying that moorings charges were increased at a lower rate than car park charges. In response, some Board members stated that the Harbour was self-financing and did not receive any funding from the Council and when considering access problems into the Harbour, increased charges for yachtsman could lead to them migrating to neighbouring harbours.

It was noted that commercial users had never been discouraged from using the harbour but there were certain restrictions. For example, the Harbour Policy limited the number of moorings.

The need to have regard to the Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954, in addition to the Council's planning policies and environmental issues when considering improvements and developments to the Harbour was stressed. The Chairman believed that a copy of the Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954, should be made available to all Board members. The Chairman also requested that potential improvements and methods of funding be considered at a future meeting.

To assist the Board in considering Environmental goals, the Mission of estuary Environmental Management Plan (EMP) (attached as Appendix B) was circulated. A member emphasised the need to safeguard the interests of the local economy. The Board was advised that the harbour/estuary was contributing to the prosperity of the local area by providing the infrastructure for the user. It was raised that Salcombe Town Council were concerned about the prosperity of the area and were considering methods of improvement.

It was highlighted that the location's appeal was derived from visitors who appreciated the unspoilt nature of the area. The imposed constraints of lying within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a local nature reserve were also stressed.

Board members believed that Salcombe did not attract vast numbers of water-skiers or jet skiers. This belief was supported by the example of the Island Cruising Club, who had previously attempted to run a centre for this sort of activity, which had proved to be not financially viable. It was noted that, as long as persons operating these types of vessels were operating within the Byelaws, there was no action required. The Harbour Master reminded the Board that there was a public right to navigate.

In terms of exploring the option of buying out the Duchy of Cornwall, the Board was informed that the Duchy had no intention of selling retained property.

- (ii) Portlemouth Ferry and Water Taxi Service – it was noted that the question had been derived because residents of East Portlemouth had requested a review of the services. In response, the Board was informed that the ferry was a privately owned operation and that the service timetable was not under the Harbour Authority's control. Consequently, any concerns on the ferry service would need to be raised with the owners of the ferry. The Water Taxi Service was a yacht taxi service and was not a ferry service. The Chairman advised that the feasibility of a review of the Portlemouth Ferry and water taxi service would be investigated.
  - (iii) Island Street – it was noted that the role of Island Street was outside of the remit of the Board and that the Board could only aim to be an influence. The Board re-iterated its support for Island Street to remain as an employment area.
  - (iv) Questionnaire/Survey – the Board was advised that as part of the Fundamental Service Review (FSR) undertaken in 2002, 3,000 questionnaires were circulated with a response rate of 1,000 questionnaires being returned. The analysis had been used to develop the aims and objectives of the Salcombe Harbour Authority. Due to the cost implications and the relevance of the current questionnaire/survey, the Harbour Master advised that he felt there was no requirement to undertake another questionnaire/survey at present. The Harbour Master agreed to provide a copy of the response to Cllr Brazil;
- (b) **Questions received from Mr Geoff Foale**
- (i) Fish Quay – the Board believed that the condition and management issues of the site required greater consideration. The Chairman suggested that a site visit should take place to the Fish Quay and Boat Park prior to a future Board meeting when a report would be presented. The Chairman also suggested that when the item was debated by the Board, the Property Services Manager (who was responsible for all assets in the Council's ownership) and the Council's Economic Development Officer be invited to attend.
  - (ii) Direct Debit Payments – the Harbour Master advised that he would investigate the viability of invoices being paid by Direct Debit with the Council's financial services and Information Technology sections. It was hoped that costing for implementing such a scheme would be available when the Board considered the budget;

**(c) Questions received from Dr Peter Goldsworthy**

It was agreed that these questions would be dealt with when the working party met on Friday 16 July 2004. Dr Goldsworthy advised the Board that since the deadline for question submission had elapsed, members of the Salcombe and Kingsbridge Estuary Association had raised the following points which were noted:-

- 'Were the criteria for the size and use of the reserve/contingency fund clearly set out?'
- 'Balance between needs of resident and visitor users;'
- 'Mooring and dinghy park: registration fee; discrepancy between car park and boat park;'
- 'What is existing moorings policy?'
- 'Inconsistency between charges for Batson boat/car park and Shadycombe car park;'
- 'The Estuary Association should make the point that no matter who ran the harbour, they should encourage and use local industry rather than set up their own workshops. They should definitely not compete with local business;'
- 'As shore side users of the estuary, we were interested in the preservation, maintenance and accessibility of all public footpaths and other rights of way along the estuaries. We would be most concerned if these were adversely affected as a consequence of the Municipal Ports review.'

SH.7/04

**UPDATE ON THE SALCOMBE-KINGSBRIDGE ESTUARY UNDERWATER FILM PROJECT**

The Chairman advised the Board that the underwater film project was still to be edited and was unable to be shown at the meeting. It was therefore intended that the project would be available to be shown at the next Board meeting to be held on 5 October 2004.

(Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 3.50 pm).

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 Chairman