

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD IN THE LIBRARY, CLIFF HOUSE, SALCOMBE ON TUESDAY,
TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2004**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J S Beer - Chairman

* Mr R Wheeler - Vice-Chairman

∅ Cllr H D Bastone

* Cllr J Brazil

* Cllr R J Carter

* Cllr P H Cook

∅ Cllr C M Pannell

* Cllr S L Rankin

* Cllr G Rothwell

* Cllr D W S Thorning

* Cllr A R Vale

* Mr T Bass

* Mr G Foale

* Mrs J Furness

* Mr R Gilbert

* Mr E Johnson

* Dr P R Goldsworthy

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

SH.23/03 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman advised Members that following the Annual General Meeting of the Salcombe/Kingsbridge Estuary Association, Dr Peter Goldsworthy had been elected as Chairman and was therefore replacing Mr Frank Smith as the Association's representative on the Board. Dr Goldsworthy was welcomed to the meeting and the Chairman asked for his thanks to be recorded to Mr Smith for his commitment during his time with the Board.

The Chairman also welcomed to the meeting Mike Davies and Ruth Adamson from the Department of Transport, Ports Division, who had agreed to address the meeting on the review of local authority ports (see minute SH.26/03 below).

SH.24/03 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 27 January 2004 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.25/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting. These were recorded as follows:-

Item 10 Management Change (see minute SH.31/03 below) – the Harbour Master declared a personal and prejudicial interest by virtue of his position being the subject of the item, and left the room during the discussion and voting.

SH.26/03 **MUNICIPAL PORTS REVIEW**

The Board received a presentation on the Review of Local Authority Ports from Mike Davies of the Ports Division of the Department of Transport.

In his address, Mr Davies made particular reference to:-

- (a) the background to the review of local authority ports which followed the review of the trust ports;
- (b) the purpose of the review, which was to consider current practices, explore future options and identify good practice. The review was intended to assist local authorities in making the most of the ports in their ownership by, for example, assessing the role of ports as an economic driver and part of the regeneration process;
- (c) the review process involving an initial stage of fact finding with visits to a selection of the 61 local authority ports in England and Wales and a questionnaire to all ports followed by benchmarking performance and an examination of the impact of modernising issues facing local authorities on the ports in their ownership. The review was to also consider the future composition of Boards and the financial framework within which ports operated;
- (d) the aim to produce a report by October 2004;
- (e) the fact that the review was being undertaken in a spirit of partnership and that there was no intention of imposing the outcomes on local authorities. However, should the review recommendations become guidance, local authorities might have to justify any non-compliance.

In discussion, reference was made to:-

- (i) some of the advantages of trust ports, particularly in relation to long term investments and planning;
- (ii) the fact that ports/harbours existed as statutory bodies in their own right;

- (iii) a request for an initial assessment of Salcombe Harbour. In response, Mike Davies advised the Board that Salcombe Harbour appeared to be a very well run operation that had managed to strike a balance between development and a concern for the environment;
- (iv) the need to be aware of the centrality of the Duchy of Cornwall as a major landowner in Salcombe.

(N.B. The website for the Department of Transport, Ports Division is **www.dft.gov.uk**)

SH.27/03 **SCOBLE TRANSITS**

A report was considered which invited the Board to discuss a new arrangement for the leading lights (navigational aids), locally known as the Scoble transits. The report highlighted the Council's responsibilities as lighthouse authority and the requirement to consult with statutory bodies and harbour users should changes to navigational aids in the harbour be proposed.

In the report, particular reference was made to:-

- (a) the history of the establishment of the Scoble transits, which remain sited on private land;
- (b) the positioning of the lights to provide a safe course into the harbour;
- (c) the erosion of the bank above the foreshore which had undermined the pole supporting the lower light. As it was apparent that a new arrangement would have to be installed before long, the Harbour Master investigated alternative arrangements for the leading lights, particularly given the high cost of only seeking to replace the lower light pole;
- (d) other potential options, including a solar powered single light that would remove the need for a second light altogether. The cost of the unit was around £3,000, with the installation being undertaken by the Harbour staff and an annual saving of £500 in no-replacement of batteries;
- (e) in the event that it was agreed to pursue the alternative proposed, it would be necessary to negotiate with the landowner and satisfy Trinity House, as the general lighthouse authority, that the proposal was acceptable followed by consultation with harbour users.

During discussion, Members of the Board stressed the great value of the transits in assisting safe passage into the harbour. It was suggested, however, that as the opportunity to review the lights had arisen, consideration should be given to the installation of a more sophisticated system based on tricolour lights (red, green and white). In response, the Harbour Master reminded Members that this option would carry a greater cost implication but that it could be investigated and reported back to a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED

That the:-

1. Harbour Master be instructed to investigate possible new arrangements to the Scoble transits as detailed in the report before the Board including the option of a tricolour system and report back to a future meeting of the Board;
2. Harbour Master consults with Trinity House and harbour users on the proposed new arrangements;
3. Council's Property Services Manager and Legal Service be involved in discussions with the landowner to ensure the Council's interests are preserved.

SH.28/03 **ANNUAL WORKING INSPECTION OF THE HARBOUR**

The Board considered a report which advised Members of the date and proposed arrangements for the annual inspection 2004. The date for the inspection had been provisionally arranged for 13 July 2004.

The report advised Members that, with the agreement of the Chairman, it was proposed to hold an 'Open Forum' meeting of the Board on the afternoon of the inspection to provide Members with an opportunity to raise any issues of concern. The meeting was to be open to the public and press and Members would be invited to submit questions in advance.

RESOLVED

1. That the date of the inspection be noted as 13 July 2004;
2. That the new arrangements for this year's inspection be agreed.

SH.29/03 **TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES**

A report was considered which sought to update the Board of any interesting current or future issues to effect the Harbour or Salcombe/Kingsbridge Estuary.

In the report, particular mention was made of the following trends and developments:-

- (a) **Waste Management Plan** – that the Marine Conservation Agency had not only approved the Salcombe Harbour Authority waste management plan but cited it as an example of good practice.
- (b) **Mooring Policy Working Group** – that arrangements were in-hand for the group to next meet, subject to Member availability, at the end of March 2004.
- (c) **Safety Management: Slipways – Launching and Recovery of Vessels** – the observation that the Board's Safety Management document omitted any reference to the launching and recovery of vessels from the harbour slipways. It had therefore been proposed that a survey be undertaken of the use of the slipways during the busiest periods of the summer to assess the situation and address the omission in the document.

In discussion, it was agreed that further work was required before a decision could be made on this initiative, particularly with regard to the insurance implications for the Council.

Mr Tim Bass, who had proposed the survey, agreed to return to a future meeting of the Board with a more detailed proposal.

(d) **Environmental Issues**

In an oral update, the Marine Conservation Officer highlighted the following issues:-

- The proposed underwater film of the estuary - that a production meeting had been held to discuss storylines with interested parties;
- Salcombe/Kingsbridge Management Plan – that the final draft was with the Council's drawing office awaiting publication.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

SH.30/03 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That, in accordance with Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 9 respectively of Schedule 12A to the Act is involved.

SH.31/03 MANAGEMENT CHANGE – UPDATE ON STAFFING MATTER

Consideration was given to an exempt report which informed the Board of the outcome of the recently agreed service management changes for the wider Council and the consequences for the Board.

RESOLVED

That the appointment of Stephen Tooke to the post of Salcombe Harbour Master and Maritime Officer be noted.

SH.32/03 NIGHT SECURITY PATROL CONTRACT

An exempt report was considered which advised Members of the situation with regard to the night security patrol and the recent tendering exercise that had not been successful in identifying a new contractor to undertake the service.

The Board was asked to consider options for taking the matter forward.

RESOLVED

1. That local business interest be tested by promptly re- tendering for a night security patrol contractor;
2. That, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board, the Harbour Master and the Council's Legal Services be asked to evaluate new tenders and award a twelve month contract to the successful candidate.

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

Chairman