

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD IN THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, CLIFF HOUSE, SALCOMBE
ON TUESDAY, 21 MARCH 2006**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J S Beer - Chairman

* Mr R Wheeler - Vice-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	∅ Ms L Heape
* Cllr S L Rankin	* Mr D Penwill
* Cllr G Rothwell	* Mr E Johnson
* Cllr D W S Thorning	
* Cllr A R Vale	

* Denotes attendance

∅ Denotes apology for absence

Officers in attendance:

For all items – Strategic Director (Operations), Acting Harbour Manager, AONB Officer and Senior Member Support Officer

Officer in attendance for observation purposes:

For all items – Head of Property Services, Assistant Accountant and Harbour Supervisor

SH.24/05 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 14 February 2006 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.25/05 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:-

Mr Wheeler declared a personal interest in item 6 'Topical Harbour Issues' (see minute SH.29/05 below) by virtue of his employment by the Harbour Authority for research purposes on recycling afloat. He remained in the meeting during discussion on this item.

SH.26/05 URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairman informed the Board that he had agreed to one item of urgent business to be raised at the meeting, which related to a companies request to perform a Wake Boarding stunts display during the 2006 Salcombe Regatta period. For clarification the Board were informed that Wake Boarding was the water borne version of snow boarding and would involve the towing of a rider at a speed of approximately 20 knots. It was noted that, although the Regatta Committee had initially agreed to such an event, there had since been a number of reservations expressed. Whilst it was felt that such a venture would attract a number of spectators and would be different and interesting for the Regatta, the current position was that there were substantial Health and Safety concerns especially in light of the short notification of the event and the position of Harbour Master being currently vacant. It was stipulated that the decision not to agree to a Wake Boarding stunts display for the 2006 Salcombe Town Regatta would not prevent future involvement in such ventures.

The Board supported the decision not to permit Wake Boarding during this year's Regatta.

SH.27/05 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed the Board of the following announcements:-

- That following this meeting of the Harbour Board Dr P Goldsworthy would no longer represent the Salcombe and Kingsbridge Estuary Association and that Mr J Barrett had been nominated to represent the Association. Thanks was extended to Dr Goldsworthy for all his work on the Board;
- The interviews for the position of Salcombe Harbour Master were to be held over Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 April 2006 with Board Members invited to meet the candidates for a lunch on Wednesday 5 April. Further details were to be circulated;
- Thanks were extended to Nigel Mortimer, AONB Officer, for the Estuary Forum event which had been well received.

SH.28/05 FUTURE GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

A report was considered which informed the Board on the work to date to review the Harbour Board Governance arrangements for implementation from July 2006. The Board was reminded of its previous support for reviewing the Harbour Board governance in line with the Department for Transport's (DfT) Guide to Good Governance (minute SH.19/05 refers). Consequently a small officer working group had progressed this work with input from the DfT's Ports Division.

In presenting the report, the Strategic Director (Operations) made reference to:

- i. The regularity which it was hoped the newly formed Board would meet and that the structure of the meetings would enable a 15 minute public question time at the commencement of the meeting;
- ii. The knowledge and experience which potential Board Members would be asked to identify, such as: knowledge of port/maritime or other nautical experience, general finance/business knowledge, their understanding of Harbour users, awareness of environmental issues, aspects related to tourism, leisure and marketing and their knowledge or interest in the local and/or the wider community;
- iii. The initial Community Forum meeting which had been scheduled for 5 April 2006 at 7pm in the Yacht Club, Salcombe.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- a) clarification that the community forum stakeholders event, planned for April 2006, was about explaining the new governance arrangements and how user/community groups could get involved. Furthermore, it was a way for the Council to gain further understanding of the various user/community groups which existed;
- b) clarification that the proposed composition of the Board would be 8 Members including the Chairman, who would be nominated from and by the new Board;
- c) concern over the issues surrounding the declarations of interests, especially with regards to those Members who owned moorings within the estuary;
- d) confirmation that the Harbour Board would still report to the District Council's full Council and therefore all Board Members would be 'local authority nominees';
- e) how appointments to the Board would be made. Following a query it was noted that the intention was to follow the Trust Port Sector's appointments process as far as possible. However, as the Board was part of the Council it would need to be the Council's appointments panel which may be comprised, for example, of an independent representative, a senior council officer and a Member of Council;
- f) if, as laid out in the report, appointments ran for a three year term with the possibility of a second term and then open competition for a third, concern was noted with regard to the probability that the composition could wholly change every six years. In response it was noted that timescales would have to be addressed in terms of

the possibility of 'staggering' new appointments;

- g) clarification that it was intended for the Council to resolve to agree the changes in the Harbour Board governance arrangements at its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 11 May 2006.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

SH.29/05 TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES

A report was considered which informed Members of any interesting current or future issues that might affect Salcombe Harbour and the Salcombe Harbour/Kingsbridge Estuary.

In presenting the report, reference was made to:-

- a. the continuing work on the Strategic Business Plan;
- b. the progress on the Residents' Pontoons in the Bag;
- c. the contentious issues surrounding the Provisioning Afloat initiative and the importance of the Harbour Office providing information to visiting crafts to support local prosperity;
- d. works undertaken for the provision of recycling facilities afloat, highlighting the funding received from GreenBlue to enable coloured waste sacks to be purchased to encourage the separation of waste materials. These sacks were to be discretionally distributed to vessels and, to enable the reuse of sacks, wheeled bins would be situated on a pontoon to dispose of the waste. Following a query, the Board was informed that the wheeled bins would be placed in a three sided unit at one end of the pontoon (which would be extended). Furthermore, it was noted that the wheeled bins were to be twice the capacity of the standard 180ltr size. For information it was noted that an environmental licence had been obtained to enable the Council to hold this amount of waste for short periods of time and, moreover, waste from vessels was classified as trade waste and could not therefore be placed with residential waste for collection;
- e. the investigation into Seaflex Moorings, noting the offer received by the Harbour to trial these moorings in the eelgrass beds, for which English Natures had offered a 50% grant towards the overall cost of purchase and installation;

- f. the mitigation for Avian Flu and the importance of contacting DEFRA, in the first instance, to report dead, injured or sick birds;
- g. an update on staffing issues which noted that following interviews, an offer had been made for the vacant part time Clerical Assistant Post pending references.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

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

Chairman