

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD AT EAST PORTLEMOUTH VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 31 MARCH 2008**

MEMBERS

* Cllr J Brazil – Chairman

* Dr C C Harling – Vice-Chairman

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| * Cllr J H Baverstock | * Mr J Barrett |
| * Cllr R D Gilbert | * Mr T Bass |
| * Cllr M J Hicks | * Mr H Marriage |
| | * Mr M O'Brien |
| | * Mr P Waring |

Members in attendance but not participating:
Cllrs P Coulson and P W Hitchins

Officers in attendance:

All Agenda Items: Strategic Director (Operations), Head of Service (Salcombe Harbour) and Harbour Office Manager.

Also in attendance:
8 members of the public.

SH.54/07 **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed Mr P Waring to his first Board meeting following his recent appointment as a co-opted Member onto the Harbour Board.

The Chairman also welcomed members of the public and thanked East Portlemouth Village Hall for hosting the meeting.

SH.55/07 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Salcombe Harbour Board held on 14 January 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.56/07 **URGENT BUSINESS**

Following the recent storms during the beginning of March 2008, the Chairman invited the Harbour Master to update Members on any damage that may have been caused to the harbour and the estuary.

In addressing the Board the Harbour Master noted that the storms had damaged pontoons at both Victoria Key and Batson. The Victoria Key Pontoon, which had recently been put into service for the summer season, had broken its back in one section but had since been repaired using steel girders.

Prior to the storms, the Batson Pontoon had been replaced with a deep water pontoon. Stress from the storms had caused the bridge pontoon to break. Although it had since been repaired, at the cost of approximately 300 man hours, the Harbour Master advised that he did not feel that the longevity of the pontoon would stretch for a further 3 years until it was planned to be replaced, as outlined in the Harbours 5 year strategic business plan. Therefore, the Board was advised that a report would be presented to its next meeting proposing the need for the replacement of the Batson Pontoon project to be brought forward.

SH.57/07 **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.58/07 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Three members of the public wished to utilise the public question time session. Comments were recorded as follows:-

Mr Patrick Smith, local resident

- a) In relation to Harbour Fees and Charges, clarification was sought as to why the first 4.5 metres of a vessel was charged at one level, whilst additional metres were charged out at a different level. In response, it was noted that this had been historical in order that the estuary remain accessible for smaller vessels. However, a working group of the Harbour Board was currently looking at how the Harbour set its fees and charges and perhaps this aspect could be incorporated into the working group's investigations.

Mr John Neaverson, local resident

- b) It was suggested that the ferry service between Salcombe and East Portlemouth should be extended to run until 11.00 pm. Furthermore, it was felt that the landing for the ferry in East Portlemouth needed improving, with particular reference made to enhanced lighting.

Graham Price, Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club

- c) Concern was raised over the amount of silt in the estuary basin and assurance was sought that this would be addressed. In response it was noted that although this aspect was not within the Board's Five Year Strategic Business Plan, it was an aspiration. However, currently the financial implications prohibited the Harbour from moving such a project forward. It was anticipated that the Harbour would be better placed to investigate this issue towards the end of 2008.
- d) Concern over the declining state of the embankment wall at Kingsbridge was noted.

SH.59/07

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)

- SKEA widening its communication channels. The Board was advised that SKEA was attempting to widen its consultee base, through various means of communication to gather further information which may be of use to both SKEA and the Harbour Board.

Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club

- the night security patrol being undertaken by the Boat Club. It was noted that the Club had received support from the Police by way of the use of night vision goggles. Furthermore, communication with the Police had increased resulting in improved response times;
- the Boat Club also wished to extend its thanks to the Harbour officers for their work on the estuary, especially in relation to addressing issues at the Kingsbridge end of the estuary;
- the need to for clear signage in relation to speeding restrictions.

Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary Conservation Forum

- the Board was advised that the Forum had yet to meet following the previous meeting of the Board. However, the next Forum meeting was scheduled for 24 April 2008.

South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen

- a recent survey of the Fish Quay. Members were informed that the results of this survey were pending. However, subject to these results the Fisherman were keen to encourage the District Council to repair and extend the Fish Quay.

SH.60/07 REPLACEMENT OF VISITORS' PONTOON

Members considered a report which sought the approval of the Harbour Board to replace the Visitors' Pontoon. By delaying the replacement of the Whitestrand end pontoons for one year, the Visitors' pontoon, which was in a very poor state of repair, could be replaced a year earlier than planned. This would therefore reduce the operating risk and improve the facilities for visiting yachts.

During discussion particular reference was made to:-

- a) the condition of the piles for the Visitors' Pontoon. The Harbour Master advised that the piles were in good condition and therefore it was a simple case of replacing the actual pontoons only;
- b) potential risks in delaying the Whitestrand pontoons. In response to a query, the Harbour Master was of the opinion that delaying the Whitestrand Pontoon Project was a manageable risk and that the Visitors' Pontoons were in greater need of repair;
- c) the plausibility of extending the length of the visitor pontoons. Following a query, it was noted that currently it would not be possible to extend the number of visitor spaces. Extending the lengths of the pontoon would result in the need for repiling, which would significantly increase the cost of the project.

RECOMMENDED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that:-

- i) the replacement of Whitestrand end pontoons planned for 2008/09 be postponed until 2009/10;
- ii) the Harbour Master, in consultation with the Chairman of Salcombe Harbour Board and the Lead Executive Member for the Harbour, invite tenders for the replacement of the Visitors' Pontoon during winter 2008/09.

SH.61/07 KINGSBRIDGE BASIN VISITORS' PONTOON

A report was considered which sought approval for the installation for a dedicated Visitors' Pontoon at Kingsbridge. It was noted that, in seizing the opportunity presented by utilising the old residents' pontoons from the Bag, and reallocating finance that was earmarked for another project which could not be delivered within year, a considerable improvement could be delivered to the Harbour customers within the Kingsbridge area.

During discussion on this item, a Member commented on how delighted he was to see this project brought forward.

RECOMMENDED

That the Council be **RECOMMENDED** that a dedicated Visitors' Pontoon be installed at Kingsbridge in line with the proposal as set out in the presented report.

SH.62/07 TOPICAL HARBOUR ISSUES

Consideration was given to a report which updated Members on the progress made against a number of operational projects within Salcombe Harbour. The report concluded in noting that there were a large number of actions currently being progressed which, it was hoped, demonstrated the Harbour Board and Harbour Team's commitment to providing a first class service to the users of Salcombe/Kingsbridge Estuary.

During discussion, reference was made to:-

- (a) the Duchy of Cornwall Lease Negotiations. It was anticipated that the lease negotiations would be complete by the end of the 2008 calendar year. One of the proposed changes to the lease related to encroachment from private property over the duchy's fundus, which would be dealt with directly by the Duchy in the future;
- (b) the importance of benchmarking the Harbour's visitor numbers against neighbouring harbour authorities;
- (c) the security patrol. Members were informed that tenders for the night security patrol had been received but were yet to be opened. The opening of the tenders had been scheduled for Tuesday 1 April 2008, after which the Harbour Master would inform the Board of the outcome.

RESOLVED

That the presented report be noted.

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

Chairman