

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE SALCOMBE HARBOUR BOARD
HELD AT QUAY HOUSE, KINGSBRIDGE ON MONDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members in attendance			
* Denotes attendance		∅ Denotes apology for absence	
*	Cllr R J Carter (Chairman)	*	Mr G Burrell
*	Cllr M J Hicks	*	Dr C C Harling (Vice Chairman)
*	Cllr K R H Wingate	∅	Mr M Mackley
*	Cllr S A E Wright	*	Mr H Marriage
		∅	Mr A Thomson
		∅	Mr M Taylor
*	Cllr H Bastone		

Item No	Minute Ref No below refers	Officers in attendance and participating
All agenda items		Salcombe Harbour Master, Head of Assets, Principal Accountant and Member Services Manager

SH.19/13 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Salcombe Harbour Board held on 15 July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

SH.20/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting, and the following were made:

Cllr Wright, Dr Harling, Mr Marriage & Mr Burrell all declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in all related agenda items by virtue of having moorings or paying harbour dues to the Council, however as the Deputy Monitoring Officer had previously granted a dispensation under Paragraph 8.1 (c) of the Code of Conduct (minute SH.14/13 refers), all Members remained in the meeting and took part in the discussion and debate on all agenda items.

SH.21/13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public in attendance to utilise the question time session.

SH.22/13 **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)

The representative for SKEA was not in attendance.

Salcombe Kingsbridge Estuary Conservation Forum

The Group had not met since the last Board meeting so there was therefore nothing to report.

Kingsbridge Estuary Boat Club (KEBC)

The KEBC had no points to raise.

South Devon & Channel Shellfishermen

The South Devon and Channel Shell fishermen had no points to raise.

Kingsbridge and Salcombe Marine Business Forum

The representative advised that he had points to raise on behalf of the Forum and would do so when the appropriate agenda items were discussed.

SH.23/13 **BUDGET 2014/15**

The Board was presented with a report that set out the 2014/15 draft Budget which had been built upon the principles adopted in the Salcombe Harbour Strategic Business Plan and which detailed the financial impact of the proposals contained therein.

The Harbour Master introduced the report and advised that he had one specific point to advise Members of which was the introduction of a payment to the District Council into a Marine Infrastructure Reserve. The finances were such that the Board was able to approve this without impacting on fees and charges, and it was hoped that in future years, the sum paid into this reserve would be increased. The Head of Assets added that a condition survey was being undertaken of all maritime assets held by the Council, and with financial pressures as they were, it was important to take a more commercial view and explore every opportunity.

During discussion, it was agreed that the time for distinguishing between Council and Harbour assets was passed, and that the cost of repairs to maritime assets was likely to outstrip what the Board could put into reserves. The Principal Accountant advised that the Marine Infrastructure Reserve would be a new reserve held by the Council, and with agreement that the monies from Salcombe Harbour could be ringfenced for assets within the estuary, thereby enabling the Board to retain an element of control, Members were content to support the recommendation for the proposed payment into the reserve.

Following further minor points in relation to the report being clarified, it was then:

RECOMMENDED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that the 2014/15 budget items set out within the presented report be approved.

SH.24/13 **REVIEW OF CHARGES 2014/15**

The Board was presented with a report that had been prepared to enable the Board Members to recommend Harbour Charges for 2014/15.

The Harbour Master introduced the report and took Members through each element of the charges. He advised the Board that the overriding principle behind the report was one of fairness.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- The Harbour Master asked that the Visitor Foreshore Mooring Price be frozen at £73.80;
- There was some discussion over the proposed charges for Visiting Vessels Launched into the Estuary, and it was agreed that the proposal should stand for 2014/15, the implications monitored this year and reviewed for 2015/16;
- There was some discussion over the Shellfish Store Boxes and Members agreed that the proposed annual charge for registration of the boxes would help to establish the principle;
- The Harbour Master concluded presentation of his report by advising the Board that all other charges should be increased by 2%, and that this was below the forecast and therefore another indication of a good year. He then advised Members of some amendments to the presented appendix;
- Finally, some Members raised concerns over the landing charges for ferries and passenger vessels at Jubilee Pier, Salcombe and Steamer Steps, Kingsbridge. The charges were being levied on an operator who was providing a facility for tourism which was an important revenue stream for the area. The Harbour Master responded that these charges were levied by the District Council and therefore outside of his remit, however, the comments of concern were noted.

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

1. That Council be **RECOMMENDED** that changes to the charging policy as set out in para 2.1 of the presented report be approved (to include minor amendments as discussed); and
2. The proposed charges as set out in Appendix A of the presented report be approved for implementation from 1 April 2014.

At the conclusion of these items, Members asked that their thanks be noted to the Harbour Master and Principal Accountant for all their hard work in relation to the budget and fees and charges reports.

SH.25/13 **KINGSBRIDGE BERTHING IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT UPDATE**

The Board was asked to consider a report that updated the progress of the Kingsbridge Berthing Improvements Project. The Harbour Master introduced the report and advised that all conditions in relation to the MMO Licence had now been complied with.

He also advised of some improvements to the pontoon which would make the bridge self supporting and therefore would not require any intrusive works to the existing quay wall. The improvements would be cost neutral, as the contract included an option to purchase some fingers from the boat shows in Southampton and London held earlier this year, which had been taken.

Following a brief discussion, it was then:

RECOMMENDED

That Council be **RECOMMENDED** to replace the previously approved requirement for a £50,000 loan with funds from the Harbour's General Reserve.

SH.26/13 **DEEP WATER MOORING OPTIONS TRIAL**

The Board was asked to consider a report that advised of the outcome of the trial of fingers on the Coad Cove Pontoons for vessels up to 8 metres.

The Harbour Master introduced the report and advised that the outcome of the trial was mixed. He concluded that the finger pontoons were best suited to day boats without a cabin and specifically RHIBs.

In terms of financial implications, the cost of the pontoons would exceed the amount in the pontoon maintenance budget, however the overspend would be met from savings within the revenue budget.

It was then:

RESOLVED

1. That the results of the berthing arrangements trial be noted; and
2. That the number of finger pontoons from be increased from four to ten on Coad Cove Pontoon B for the 2014/15 season.

SH.27/13 **MOORING ALLOCATION POLICY REVIEW**

The Board considered a report that proposed a change to the Mooring Allocation Policy. The report contained a recommendation to Council, however in view of the time constraints the report would also be presented to Council on 26 September 2013.

Members had already discussed this subject at a workshop session. The Harbour Master noted that the waiting lists were at their lowest level for a number of years and this was therefore an opportune time to make the proposed changes. If approved, he confirmed that everyone on the lists would be contacted to ascertain if they wanted to remain on the list for a mooring.

Some Members opposed the recommendation for one list and would not support the recommendation. Other Members agreed with this sentiment but felt the proposal was the best way forward. One Member reminded the Board that the previous policy was based on being able to distinguish reliably and fairly between full council tax payers and discounted council tax payers. As this was no longer the case, the policy is open to challenge.

It was then:

RECOMMENDED

That the Harbour Board **RECOMMENDS** to Council that a change be made to the Mooring Allocation Policy to give priority to customers who pay Council Tax to South Hams District Council as set out in Paragraph 3 of the presented report.

(Note: This recommendation was reported to Council at its meeting on 26 September 2013 and was subsequently approved).

SH.28/13 **MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

The Board considered a report that identified matters for future consideration by the Harbour Board.

It was then:

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

(Meeting commenced at 2.30 pm and concluded at 4.20 pm)

Chairman