

AT A MEETING of the River Hamble Harbour Board of HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at St Paul's Church, Sarisbury Lane on Friday, 12th April, 2024

Chairman: * Councillor Michael Ford
(Vice Chairman in the Chair)

* Councillor Keith House

*Present

Co-opted members

Nikki Hiorns, David Jobson, Jason Scott and Nicola Walsh

112. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Members were present and no apologies were noted.

113. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

David Jobson declared personal interests as a member of the RAF YA, as a midstream mooring holder and a member of the Royal Yachting Association.

114. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January were agreed as a correct record.

115. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

116. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman referred to the resignation in March of Sean Woodward as a county councillor and Board members joined him in passing on their thanks for his services as Chairman of the Harbour Board from 2021. The County Council in May was expected to update the Harbour Board's membership.

He confirmed that he had met with the Harbour Master and received a handover of the Duty Holder role.

He noted that, as set out in its draft minutes, the Management Committee was also passing on its thanks to Hugh Lumby as its Chairman from 2021 and to Sean Woodward for many years' service before that.

117. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Board received and noted the draft minutes of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee held on 22 March.

118. MARINE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The Board received a report summarising the incidents and events which have taken place in the Harbour and addresses any issues currently under consideration by the Harbour Master. The supplementary report detailing incidents and events up to the end of March. There were no matters to raise concerning the exceptional spring tide this week.

The Harbour Master highlighted the recent successful inspection by Trinity House and clarified a point around the categorisation of incidents in the figures in the report which was due to re-attendance. There was not considered to be a significant reduction in the amount of speeding on the river. David Jobson reflected that the incident log was an indicator of the unseen effort and activity of the harbour management.

Nikki Hiorns referenced an ongoing incident relating to potentially unauthorised development on the Eastleigh side of the river.

David Jobson referred to the incident in late March in the Supplementary report and expressed concern about the risk assessments applied by private contractors.

It was noted that the Harbour Authority required contractors to maintain risk assessments relating to works in accordance with best practice under its Marine Safety Management System. The RHHA did not review the content of contractors' Risk Assessments routinely. The March incident involving a pontoon securing failure would be investigated and reported on as necessary.

The Harbour Board supported the contents of the report.

119. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Board received a report summarising activities relating to the River Hamble Harbour Authority's (RHHA) environmental management of the Hamble Estuary between December 2023 and February 2024.

Alison Fowler highlighted the recent purchase of new Tier 1 oil containment booms; and confirmed the larger, formal Tier 2 boom deployment for responding to oil spills every was undertaken every three years.

There continued to be concern about the level of sewage discharge into the river and the RHHA signposted the public to the Environment Agency and Southern Water's website for information. The RHHMC was aiming to have a presentation from Southern Water at its 14 June meeting. There were thought to be around a dozen house boats across two locations on the river with varying arrangements for sewage treatment and discharge.

There had been a good meeting of the Hamble Estuary Partnership in February and the RHHB continued to support this and the associated partnership working including the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The River Hamble Harbour Board noted and supported the report.

120. **ASSET REGISTER REVIEW**

The Board received a report to convey the condition of essential operational assets, indicate levels of associated maintenance expenditure and judge whether the Asset Replacement Reserve (ARR) is being maintained at an adequate level.

It was noted that the overall aim was for the Harbour Board to accumulate balances from harbour dues to enable it to plan to replace assets over time and respond to unexpected events. The planning took account of the effect of inflation. It was observed that the projected balance dropped to close to the minimum (which itself should be index-linked) nine years out.

The Harbour Master undertook to bring a further paper to the Board in the autumn setting out longer term projections through to 2050.

The River Hamble Harbour Board approved:

- a. That the report be taken into account alongside the annual statutory accounts in setting Harbour Dues for 2024/25 at the June Board meeting;
- b. The contribution from Revenue to the Replacement Reserve should remain as planned at £42,000 in 2024/25 and continued note be taken of the need for frequency and amount of potential future increases.

121. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Board reviewed and approved the Forward Plan 2024.

Two additions arose from the meeting:

- March 2024 incident report
- Asset register review to 2050

Chairman,