

AT A MEETING of the RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR BOARD held at Warsash Sailing Club on Friday 13 January at 10am:

PRESENT:

Hampshire County Council

Councillors:

p K Evans (Chairman)
p P Latham
p K House

Independent Members

a Ms N Hiorns
p Mr D Jobson
p Mr C Moody

Marine Director

p J Scott

200. BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recording for broadcasting purposes.

201. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Nikki Hiorns.

202. 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 and, having regard to 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, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, 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 while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code. Mr David Jobson declared Personal Interests including memberships of the Royal Southern Yacht Club; RAF Yacht Club; Royal Yachting Association and as a Midstream Mooring Holder.

203. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 21 October 2016 (Item 4 in the Minute Book) were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

204. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations on this occasion.

205. MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RIVER HAMBLE HARBOUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 9 DECEMBER 2016

The Board received and noted the draft minutes of the meeting of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee held on 9 December 2016 (Item 7 in the Minute Book).

206. MARINE DIRECTOR AND HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT AND CURRENT ISSUES

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 8 in the Minute Book) regarding incidents and events in the Harbour and updates from the Marine Director.

An addendum was distributed at the meeting which outlined those events which had occurred since the publication of the papers.

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

207. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 9 in the Minute Book).

The report summarised environmental management of the Hamble Estuary from June to November 2016.

With reference to section 2.7 of the report, Members heard that recreational bait digging was allowed under the public right to fish but that this did not apply to bait digging for commercial gain. It was clarified that trespassing on privately owned land by bait diggers was a matter for the landowner to resolve and to refer to the police should they wish to do so. The issue of digging too near to Harbour Authority (HA) buildings or infrastructure was the responsibility of the HA to address. In accordance with the relevant byelaw, bait digging was only permitted to take place a minimum of 6 metres from a structure and a minimum 15 metres from a mooring. Following Members' questions, it was confirmed that, if necessary, a breach of this byelaw would be managed through the County Council's Legal Services and there existed the possibility that the case could be brought to Magistrates' court for resolution.

RESOLVED:

The Board RESOLVED to note the report.

208. REVIEW OF RHHA SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 10 in the Minute Book).

The Board heard that the Safety Management System had been inspected following the re-issue of the Port Marine Safety Code. It was reported that, following the inspection, the System continued to meet the standards set within the Code and that all previous recommendations had been achieved.

A full copy of the inspection report was appended to the Board report.

Discussion was held regarding the promotion and availability of safety guidance to river users and members of the public and the level of statutory responsibility that the HA had to ensure this information was accessible on its website and via other means. It was agreed that, as part of the ongoing review of the Visitor Guide, a review into the safety information provided would be conducted by the Harbour Office. It was also agreed that an update on the safety guidance produced and published by the HA would be brought to a future Board meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Board RESOLVED to note the report and to endorse the work conducted to refine the Safety Management System.

209. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 11 in the Minute Book) presenting a review of the fees and charges which were applicable to the River Hamble.

It was proposed and agreed that the fees and charges for 2017/18 would remain unchanged for the third consecutive year and these figures were outlined within the report. It was also noted by the Board that it would likely not be possible for the fees and charges to remain at the current 2017/18 level for the following 2018/19 year.

Members agreed that it would be helpful if the HA's fee structure could be outlined within a future report and for this to ideally be achieved before the 2018/19 budget was brought to the Board for consideration next year. The Board were in agreement that the breakdown of the fee structure would be useful in informing the setting of charges and budgets for the 2018/19 financial year.

RESOLVED:

The Board RESOLVED to approve the fees and charges set out within the report and that these are listed on the River Hamble website.

210. RIVER HAMBLE 2017/18 FORWARD BUDGET

The Board considered the report of the Directors of Corporate Resources and Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 12 in the Minute Book).

The report presented the 2016/17 outturn forecast at Period 6 and the 2017/18 forward budget for the Board to consider. Members heard that the River Hamble was projected to achieve a surplus of £10,000 against a budgeted surplus of £51,000 for 2016/17. An appendix was attached to the report which detailed the proposed forward budget for 2017/18.

Following discussion related to the Asset Replacement Reserve, it was confirmed that the purpose of this reserve was to fund the significant capital outlay required when replacing major assets, such as the HA's patrol boats, once they had been decommissioned. The funds contained within this reserve were intended to accumulate, in line with the HA's agreed contribution policy, so that should significant capital expenditure be required the HA would be in a position to be able to fund this. It was agreed that the Asset Register report would be brought to the next Board meeting to provide an update and information to Members.

Members heard that the Central Department Charges, those paid to Hampshire County Council for services provided to the Harbour Authority, were under review. Members also noted that they considered the operational costs contained within the report to be at a credible level.

RESOLVED:

The Board RESOLVED to note the 2016/17 forecast outturn and to approve the 2017/18 forward budget as set out within the report.

211. HAMBLE SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT AND SALTMARSH RETENTION FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Board considered the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services (Item 13 in the Minute Book).

Members received an update on the recently completed Feasibility Study. It was noted that the results of the study could be used to better inform a variety of Harbour Authority decisions, to provide structure and direction for future reviews and further information to enable partnership working. The immediate application of the study was further analysed within section 10.2 of the report.

The Board also noted that the study could be used in the future as a useful reference document in maintaining awareness of the issues involved with sediment management and saltmarsh retention.

RESOLVED:

The Board RESOLVED to:

- a. Accept the feasibility report.
- b. Use the feasibility report to apply to the steps set out in 10.2.
- c. Continue to engage in looking into the future application of the study, to include investigating terrestrial radar, when opportune.

212. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board received the report of the Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services anticipating future business items of the River Hamble Management Committee and the Harbour Board (Item 14 in the Minute Book).

It was agreed that the annual Harbour Dues report, setting the level of charges, would be brought to the June and July cycle of meetings.

Members discussed the overall role of the Harbour Authority with regards to river recreational activities, whether it could or should take a more pro-active role in terms of organising and promoting recreational activities on the River and whether updates could be reported back to the Board regularly. The Chairman agreed that he would review this with the Marine Director with regards to the core responsibilities of the Harbour Authority and that a report would be brought to a future Board meeting following the review.

The Board RESOLVED to note the Forward Plan report.