

NORTH DEVON COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the ILFRACOMBE HARBOUR BOARD held at the Ilfracombe Centre, Ilfracombe on Tuesday 14th August 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Fowler (Chairman)

Councillor Meadlarkin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Campbell

Co-opted Members:

Mr Kift, Mr Knill and Mr Cleary.

Officers:

Harbour Master, Chief Executive, Water Sports Regeneration Officer (IB), and Corporate and Community Services Officer (AD).

Also Present:

Mr D Jenkins.

16 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence received.

17 MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meetings held on 8th May 2018 and 3rd July 2018 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18 ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed the new co-opted member and invited him to introduce himself to the Board.

The Chairman had received a question on land owned by NDC on the southern side of the Harbour and if there were any plans to develop this land. In response to this question the Chief Executive advised he was not aware of any plans but to check with the Lead Officer Planning Policy who was involved in the local emerging plan.

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was announced:

Councillor Fowler All items – Personal interest as a mooring owner and member of the Ilfracombe Yacht Club.

Colin Knill All items – Personal interest as a boat owner and secretary of YSail.

Councillor Campbell

All items – Personal interest as had occasionally worked for the Landmark Trust.

20 WATER SPORTS CENTRE UPDATE

The Board received an update from the Water Sports Regeneration Officer regarding the Water sports centre as follows:

- The public consultation period had closed with one objection, a mediation visit was arranged and the objection had been withdrawn.
- The revised Harbour Revision Order was still at parliament.
- The start date on site was scheduled for 10th October 2018.
- The contracts were in nearly complete.
- Car parking access to the site was still being reviewed.
- Rental agreements were ongoing for local clubs to relocate during the build with charitable groups being advised to seek an 80 percent business rates reduction.
- Sport England had given funds for works to ensure the water sports building and the slipway were fully accessible to all users.
- The bid to English Heritage had been amended to incorporate a wider range of community activities, this funding would help with the cost of specialist rendering on the wall. In response to a question about the maintenance of this specialist rendering the Water Sports Officer said she would need to look into this.
- A community group was being set up in Ilfracombe called 'My Mindful Community' which aimed to help young people suffering with mental health issues to engage in water sports as a way of therapy. Funding for this work was being sought from the Big Lottery and the Water Sports Officer was involved in this project.

21 DESIGNATED PERSON AUDIT

The Chief Executive provided the Board with an update following the quarterly designated person audit held on 2018, (circulated previously) in respect of the actions undertaken following the previous audit inspection, risk management and conclusions reached.

The Chief Executive advised the Board of an error in the dates contained in the Audit report. He confirmed that the visit was carried out on 31st July 2018 in time for the meeting of the Harbour Board on 14th August 2018.

The Chief Executive gave praise to the new Harbour Master on her running of the Harbour.

A complaint had been received about after a member of the public walked into a waist high sign. No injury was sustained and the purpose of the sign was to notify members of the public to walk on the opposite side of the road. No alterations to the location or fixing were proposed.

New fencing was in place above the quad shed on the old quarry, (Cove Road) to keep the public back from the rock face.

Ongoing maintenance jobs were continuing as planned.

A solution was being looked at for the steel gates that were lifted when the Oldenburg visited the Harbour, currently there was only one hand hold to lift the weighty structure, and a second hand grip would give better purchase when lifting.

There was a new bollard in place at the point where the land train pulls in so passengers disembarking were made aware of the height differential when alighting from the train.

New 'No swimming' signs had been put into place and at the request of the Harbour Forum new 'No feeding seagulls' signs had been put up.

A possible problem had been identified with the disintegration of a lintel on one of the Pier gates a further meeting was needed to discuss any works that might be needed.

During the hot weather a possible Legionella risk had been identified with the water storage tanks held on the Harbour side. Increased emptying was being used to reduce stored time and temperature.

The Designated Person confirmed that the Marine Safety Management System was working effectively thus ensuring compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code.

RESOLVED that the quarterly designated person audit report be noted with the following corrections:

- a) Harbour Board Meeting: 14th August 2018, and
- b) Tuesday 31st July 2018 being the date the audit inspection was carried out.

22 PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE

The Harbour Master gave the Board an update on the Port Marine Safety Code which included the following:

- All policies were up-to-date. The new environmental plan had just been re-issued.
- An email had been sent to central government asking for an update on the outstanding Pilotage Revision Order but still no news on this. The Harbour Master explained, for the benefit of the new co-opted member, the reason for the pilotage revision order was to reduce the Harbour status to a Statutory Harbour Area (SHA) from a Competent Harbour Authority (CHA) who were responsible for managing a pilotage service.
- Trinity House Audit was completed on 9th August 2018 and all was good. A redefinition of light categories had been carried out. Category 2 lights had to be lit 99 percent of the time, whereas, category 3 lights only had to be lit 97.5 percent of the time. Lights situated at Old Quay Head and Lantern Hill remained as category 2 lights with all others being category 3. It had been confirmed that as long as the building of the water sports centre caused no impairment of the leading lights there would be no issues with the build.
- A new law had been passed in government banning the use of laser lights within the Harbour, these cannot be pointed at a moving vessel.

- Jet-skies were to be defined as a vessel. The Harbour Master hoped to introduce an identification system for jet-skies.
- Another piece of legislation in place were alcohol limits. It would now be possible to breathalyse a non-professional mariner if it was thought they were under the influence of alcohol.
- An Oil pollution prevention exercise was due to be carried out before March 2019. As part of the emergency planning an up-to-date list of first responders was needed for this.
- The Harbour Master had had a visit from the new Maritime and Coastguard Agency Officer Jane Heed. The visit had gone very well and the Officer remarked how impressed she was with the Harbour.
- A new European Union Plastics strategy was in force from May 2018, this new strategy made the manufacturers more responsible for their products. A new recycling initiative was in place 'Beach Care' which would recycle fishing gear. There was a need to make the receptacles more noticeable to ensure their use.

23 HARBOUR MASTER UPDATE

The Harbour Master gave the Board an update as follows:

- New electrical consoles had been installed on the Cove and their performance over winter would be noted with a view to converting all consoles over to the new model.
- The Harbour Master was now certified to operate a fork lift truck.
- The waiting room next to the Harbour Masters office needed upgrading and quotes would be obtained for a new roof and decorating costs. A local artist could be invited to paint murals on the internal walls.
- As the netting on the Yokohama floating fenders needed repair work/replacing an option of replacing the pier fenders was being investigated. The possibility of using shock absorbing fenders which required less maintenance was being considered.
- Lifejacket locker procurement procedures had been received from the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI), and the Harbour Master was happy to promote this as it would help safe storage and promote the use of wearing lifejackets at sea.
- There would be no cruise ship visit as the ship had been sold. As an alternative the Harbour Master thought it might be possible to put Ilfracombe forward as a stop off destination option for smaller cruise ships. She was due to go to a meeting in Bristol with Cruise UK to discuss this.
- The Waverley was due to visit the Harbour.
- It was hoped attracting the smaller cruise ships would be beneficial for the local economy with the majority of the visitors staying in the town.

24 HARBOUR FORUM UPDATE

The Board considered the notes of the Ilfracombe Harbour Community Forum held on 10th July 2018 (circulated previously).

Mr Jenkins, highlighted the main items discussed at the last Forum meeting as issues around Gulls and looking at the representatives on their committee with a

view to widening. The Forum were keen to deter the Gulls from the Harbour and that the Harbour Master had been looking into methods of doing this.

The Harbour Master advised the Board that she had met with North Devon Falconry with a view to using live birds to fly over the Harbour scaring the Gulls into retreat. The programme could start next February 2019 and involved an intensive 10 day live flying of the Falcons at various times of the day and night to deter the Gulls. It could also be used as an added attraction to visitors to the town.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 3.25 p.m.

NOTE: These minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of the Board.