

**NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of Harbour Board held at Ilfracombe Centre - Ilfracombe on Tuesday, 13th August, 2019 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT: Members:

Councillor Fowler (Chairman)

Councillors Wilkinson and Campbell

Co-optees:

Mr Cleary and Mr Knill

Officers:

Head of Resources and Designated Person, (JT)  
Harbour Master, (GC-P)  
Committee Clerk, (AD)

Also Present:

Chairman of the Ilfracombe Harbour Forum, (LR)

**12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Turton.

**13. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH JUNE 2019**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (circulated previously) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were announced:

Councillor Fowler            All items – personal interest as a boat owner and Trustee of Ilfracombe Yacht Club.

Councillor Campbell        All items – personal interest as undertook occasional work for the Landmark Trust (Lundy Island).

Mr Knill                        All items – personal interest as a Trustee of

Ilfracombe Yacht Club, Secretary of Ysail and a boat owner.

**15. QUARTERLY DESIGNATED PERSONS AUDIT REPORT - ILFRACOMBE AND LYNMOUTH HARBOURS**

The Board Members received an update from the Designated Person following the quarterly designated person audits, which were carried out at Ilfracombe on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and Lynmouth on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The following updates were given:

Ilfracombe

- An update on actions completed from previous inspections:
- Due to the adverse weather the cruise ship due to visit Ilfracombe in August had not arrived
- The works on the inner steps at Old Quay Head were still ongoing
- A visit to Bristol had been undertaken to research dock ladders, one solution that appeared to work really well was highly durable and was collapsible, so 2 metre sections could be removed and replaced if repair was needed, and the company that produced this option were based in Holland so a company in the UK was being sought. The grade II listed inner wall required the careful consideration of colour of materials to be used at present the only option for the ladders was high visibility paint
- Isolation of the oil tank in the compound work still to be carried out
- Still waiting for receipt of the laser scan report

Lynmouth

- An update on actions completed from previous inspections:
- A meeting had taken place with the Environment Agency to discuss acceptable flood gates and also the works already carried out to the flood wall was starting to break up with incoming tides and would need to be redone.
- The Harbour Master would work with Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council Clerk to get the paperwork organised, to ensure requirements were being met for the Port Marine Safety Code.

In response to a question about the budget for Lynmouth Harbour the designated person confirmed this came under the Lynton and Lynmouth Agency administered by Lynton and Lynmouth Town Council.

In response to a question about whether the risk assessment for dead animals washing up in the harbour covered dead fish overspill the Harbour Master confirmed no it didn't as the difficulty was retrieving dead livestock from the water.

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

RESOLVED that the quarterly designated person audit report be noted.

**16. CONSULTATIVE GROUP REPORTS - ILFRACOMBE HARBOUR COMMUNITY FORUM**

The Board considered the minutes of the last Ilfracombe Harbour Forum meeting, (circulated previously), held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The Chairman of the Forum gave the following updates:

- The Harbour Forum was keen for a Water Sports centre to be developed and were disappointed at the news of the funding shortfall but wholly supported any solution that could be found for the provision of a Water Sports facility.
- Signage warning of Gull attacks was in place and the Forum supported the use of live falconry as a means to deter Gulls in the Harbour.
- The Harbour Forum appreciated the increase in toilet cleaning rounds and would like to state that the demand on these facilities was great and would be devastating to ever lose them.
- The Harbour Forum supported the Public Spaces Protection Order.
- The issue of cigarette butts was being worked on with the creation of a poster showing a storm drain which would highlight where the sea began and where this litter ended up

In response to the issue of clean toilets the Harbour Master requested the Board consider using £358 of their budget for a deep steam clean of the facilities.

The Designated Person also advised the Board that a complete review of all North Devon Council toilet blocks would be carried out next year with the aim of drawing up a planned maintenance programme.

Mr Cleary added that families with young children would be put off returning if there were not the toilet facilities available.

The Chairman of the Harbour Forum requested to be kept up-to-date of any reports and findings as a result of the review.

There were no minutes from the Lynmouth Harbour Group.

RESOLVED that the Harbour Board use money from their allocated budget for the steam cleaning of the toilet block at the Harbour.

**17. POLICIES AND PLANS UPDATE**

The Harbour Master advised the Board that all policies were up-to-date.

**18. AIDS TO NAVIGATION UPDATE**

The Harbour Master updated the Board with the following:

- A local certified electrician had looked at the leading lights and made an adaptation which the Trinity House boat had tested and were able to confirm the issue of the line of sight had been corrected.
- The placement of an anti-graffiti cage was such that the navigation lights line of sight had been blocked.
- Both Harbours could be maintained for a yearly sum of £1700 if the Board agreed.

RESOLVED that the Harbour Board were happy to agree to the maintenance of Lynmouth and Ilfracombe Harbour leading lights.

**19. HARBOUR SECURITY UPDATE**

The Harbour Master updated the Board as follows:

- There was now a Security Advisory Committee members of which would be meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2019 for a talk given by an Officer from the Border Force Agency on anti-terrorism

**20. INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE**

The Board Members received the following update from the Harbour Master:

- A visit to Bristol had taken place looking at Fender replacement options a quote had come in at £220,000 so other options were being explored.
- The current Yokohama fenders are the largest size available so replacing the fenders for a smaller size would be a cheaper option.
- The Cove sustained the most damage to fenders due to trawlers catching on them and pulling them off the wall it was hoped to reschedule a meeting with a company who used composite materials and would maintain and repair damage sustained.
- Temporary speed bumps had been placed on the Cove, this was a re-introduction to speed inhibition and was a test to see how it worked. The speed bumps would then be positioned in a permanent position to reduce speeds to 10 miles per hour.

Mr Cleary advised the Board that at the start of Marine Drive work needed to be done to clear gullies which were overflowing and causing sitting water which in turn would break down the asphalt and cause damage to the wall.

**21. FUTURE PROJECTS**

The Board received an update from the Harbour Master as follows:

- There had been a really good take up from local artists to paint the

waiting room.

- A Fullabrook grant of £3,000 had been secured towards the waste shark launching cage. It was hoped to launch by the end of September 2019.
- Hele bay fell under the remit of the District Council and a bye law could not be introduced to incorporate it under Ilfracombe. Buoys could be used to delineate where swimmers were allowed to use the water and so minimise the issue of Jet Skis launching at Hele Bay. There had been no reports of any physical injuries or near misses.
- The number of illegal launches had reduced since the introduction of the policy which required users to obtain an identifying permit when launching from Ilfracombe or Bideford.

**22. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CJEU) JUDGEMENT ON DIESEL FUEL USED IN PRIVATE PLEASURE CRAFT.**

The Board considered the HMRC consultation paper, (circulated previously), in relation to stage 2 of the consultation process on the implementation of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgment on diesel fuel used in private pleasure craft.

The Harbour Master tabled charts showing members the users of Fuel and sales of diesel for private use over the last ten years as an aid to formulating a response to the consultation.

Members agreed that the Harbour Master would respond to the survey on behalf of the Harbour.

**23. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE HARBOUR BOARD**

The Board considered a report by the Harbour Master (circulated previously) regarding the appointment of two Independent Members to the Harbour Board.

The Board discussed the high calibre of the interviewees and the merits of those recommended for position of Independent Member.

RECOMMENDED that Mr Bert Gear and Mr Tim Gibbs be appointed as independent members to the Harbour Board to serve a four year term commencing on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 until 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Chairman

The meeting ended at 3.26 pm

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

This page is intentionally left blank