



Tuesday 25 November 2008
10.30 at Torquay Harbour Office,
Beacon Quay, Torquay

Attended:

Capt K Mowat (KM)
Mr C Easterbrook (CE)
Mrs C Scott (CS)
Mr A Birchell (AB)
Ms H Meacock (HM)
Mr R Cudmore (RC).

Cllr N Amil (NA)
Mr T Ekers (TE)
Mrs S Armstrong (SA)
Mr N Penman (NP)
Mr A Lane (AL)

Capt P Labistour (PL)
Mr W Butcher (WB)
Cllr R Horne (RH)
Cllr G Oliver (GO)
Mr J Turner (JT)

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Mr R Gater.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING:

(a) Stagecoach Ferry

KM reported that since the end of the trial there had been some feedback from Stagecoach, in terms of statistics and the results of the customer survey. The consultant working for Stagecoach has indicated to the Council that a fast ferry is workable. Consequently a meeting was held on 11 November, to discuss the feedback from the trial and to identify a possible way forward. At the meeting Stagecoach were asked to submit a formal proposal to the Council; that provided further information on the infrastructure that would be required for a fast ferry operation. This proposal has not yet been received. KM has indicated to the Council and to Stagecoach that funding needs to be identified and a project team assembled, if proposals are forthcoming. In response to a question from TE, Councillor Horne made it clear that if Stagecoach did run a ferry it would have to be for 12 months of the year. There followed considerable open debate over the overall concept and impact on existing operators. Councillor Oliver stated that he believed that options from the existing operators must also be considered. KM agreed to invite Geoff Coleman (Transport Planning Officer) and Councillor Lewis to the next Harbour Committee meeting. Also, KM suggested that they should be invited to attend one of the planned meetings with the existing operators. All of the Councillors present confirmed Councillor Lewis' view that there was no Council funding available for any infrastructure and alternative funding options would need to be identified. The ferry operators present made it very clear that they considered KM had been very careful to take a neutral stance on the whole issue for which they thanked him.

Action: KM to invite Geoff Coleman and Cllr Lewis to the next Harbour Committee meeting and a future meeting with local passenger boat operators.

(b) Alcohol Ban Paignton Harbour

N. Penman to write a supporting letter on behalf of Paignton Harbour users.

Action: NP to write a letter in support of an alcohol ban.

(c) Torquay Harbour Entrance-Risk Review

KM reported that he had been considering this matter and had raised the issue with the 'Designated Person' under the Port Marine Safety Code. The Harbour Authority was hoping to make the 5-knot speed restriction clearer on Admiralty Chart No.26. The chart was due for a reprint next year. A local Notice to Mariners would also be issued re-stating the area of the 5 knot limit and warning people about the dangers of not using the starboard hand mark properly. TE suggested that the words 'Dead Slow' should be painted on the pier heads in addition to '5 Knots'. NP requested that the Notice should also be circulated to Reeds Almanac. KM agreed to consider these suggestions.

Action: KM to consider suggestions from TE & NP.

4. DRAFT CONSTITUTION OF THE HARBOUR LIAISON FORUMS

KM reported that the Harbour Committee had agreed that the draft should go out for consultation and the matter would be further considered at the March Harbour Committee meeting. KM asked all Forum members to read the Constitution and send him any comments or suggestions.

Action: All Forum members.

5. HARBOUR BUDGET AND CHARGES

KM advised that the forecast budget for 2009/10 indicated a break-even position for Torquay & Paignton. He stated that the account needs to make a surplus to replenish the low level of harbour reserves. KM said he would be recommending increases in harbour charges of either 3%, 5%, or 7% to the Harbour Committee at the December meeting. The three levels of increase would generate additional income of £11,000, £19,000 and £26,000 respectively. The Forum was asked to consider these proposals. SA urged caution re the level of increase and requested a year on year steady increase, which could be planned for, rather than a rapid rise. NP stated that whilst he had not consulted the Paignton Harbour Users, an increase of 5% seemed the most appropriate. KM noted the points raised and undertook to write to all the Harbour User Groups as part of the consultation.

Action: KM to write to all the Harbour User Groups

6. PORT MARINE SAFETY CODE AUDIT

KM reported that the harbour had passed the annual audit and that the report from the 'Designated Person' would be submitted to the December meeting of the Harbour Committee. He added that whilst the audit would continue to be undertaken annually it was his intention to invite the 'Designated Person' (Peter Nicholson) to visit the harbour on a bi-annual basis in the future.

7. CAPITAL WORKS

(a) Town Dock Update

KM reported that most of the snagging had now been completed and it only remained for some recommendations from the annual safety audit to be implemented.

Action: KM to consider the safety recommendations.

(b) Haldon Pier

KM reported that the main statutory consents were now in place and the project had progressed to the design stage. A topographic survey was underway, which would be followed by a hydrographic survey.

(c) Port Master Plans – Harbour Management Plan

KM reported that he had not received any response from stakeholders on the subject of Port Master Plans. He suggested that a Harbour Management Plan may well be used as an alternative. This is supported by fact that the 'Seatorbay' Coastal Partnership, which was being launched on 26 November, could assist in writing a harbour management plan for Tor Bay.

8. LAUNCH OF TORBAY COASTAL PARTNERSHIP – ‘SEATORBAY’

KM informed the Forum that this partnership was not Council led and currently it did not have any funding. However, it was formulated by several partner organisations, working on the coast, including the Harbour Authority, Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, Living Coasts and Natural England. KM felt this was a positive initiative with similar examples operating in areas such as Plymouth for a number of years. The launch was to be in Living Coasts at 1800 on 26 November and Forum members were encouraged to attend.

9. MUSSEL FARM EXTENSION

PL reported that the existing mussel farm wished to expand in size by 50 x 100metres and that consultation was to commence. KM requested input from Forum members on any navigational issues. Several people wanted to ensure that the farm was properly marked and lit and that charts were updated at the earliest opportunity where any change had taken place. KM made those present aware that irrespective of the mussel farm proposals a revised Chart No. 26 would be issued by the Admiralty early in the New Year.

10. HARBOUR COMMITTEE - UPCOMING AGENDA

KM made the Forum aware of the agenda items for the forthcoming Harbour Committee meeting and advised that it was an open meeting if Forum members wished to attend

11. CONTRACTORS PASSES

KM advised that in line with ongoing operational policy contractors passes would be introduced at Torquay and Paignton Harbours from 1 April 2009. PL supported this move and said that contractors' passes were now in use at Brixham Harbour. Other Forum members accepted that the Marinas operated a similar scheme.

KM thanked the Forum members for attending and reminded everyone that they are welcome to add agenda items up to the day before the meeting. They were also invited to attend the Harbour Committee meetings.

The meeting closed at 1.00pm.

DATES OF NEXT LIAISON FORUM MEETINGS:

Tuesday 10 March 2009 10.30am

DATES OF THE NEXT HARBOUR COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

Monday 8 December 2008	5.30pm	Oldway Mansion, Paignton
Monday 23 March 2009	5.30pm	Town Hall, Torquay