

Minutes of the Harbour Committee

29 September 2008

-: Present :-

Councillor Addis, Amil, Carter, Ellery, Faulkner (J), Horne and Manning

Also in attendance: Councillor Morey

External Advisors: Mr Bedford, Mr Butcher, Mr Curtis, Ms Hayes,
Mr Jennings and Ms Maxwell

337. Election of Chairman/woman. Consideration of this item was deferred until the meeting to be held on 8 December 2008 and the Vice-Chairwoman, Councillor Amil, chaired the meeting.

Councillor Amil in the Chair

338. Apology. An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bent.

339. Minutes. The Minutes of the meeting of the Harbour Committee held on 16 June 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairwoman.

340. Harbour Liaison Forum Minutes. The Committee noted the minutes of the Torquay/Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum held on 26 August 2008 and Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum held on 2 September 2008 (as set out in Report 273/2008). The Committee made reference to the Stagecoach Fast Ferry Service Trial and were advised by the Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services that a report would be presented by Stagecoach on the outcome of the trial towards the end of the year.

(Note. Prior to consideration of Minute 340, Mr Bedford and Mr Butcher declared a personal interest as they were members of the Harbour Liaison Forums.)

341. Marine Services Budget Monitoring 2008/2009. Members noted Report 275/2008 which provided the projected income and expenditure for the year 2008/09. Report 275/2008 was the second budget monitoring report to be presented to the Committee and identified the overall budgetary position for

Harbour and Marine Services as at the end of August 2008.

The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services explained that expenditure would be reduced to enable the Harbour reserves to recover to previous levels. Members were also advised that the Torquay and Paignton Harbours budget was expected to make a deficit due to a reduction in charges income and debts arising from lease rentals. The Brixham Harbour expenditure budget had been increased to reflect ongoing ancillary costs relating to the Brixham redevelopment and the fish tolls projections were expected to fall below the budgeted level, as a result the deficit on the Brixham Harbour budget had therefore increased.

342. Harbour and Marine Services – Annual Torbay Harbour User Survey 2008. The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services informed the Committee that each year the Marine and Harbour Service sought to undertake a Customer Survey as part of an ongoing review of its services. Report 277/2008 set out the results of the Torbay Harbour Users Survey for 2008.

It was noted that 97% of respondents thought that harbour safety was properly managed by Marine Services.

343. Constitution of the Harbour Liaison Forums. The Committee considered Report 274/2008 on a draft Harbour Liaison Forum Constitution which was to be used for consultation. Members noted the Municipal Ports Review recommended that the management of local authority owned ports and harbours should be open and



accountable, and the Harbour Liaison Forums facilitated this. It was noted a formal constitution would ensure that the Forums were fit for purpose.

Resolved: (i) that the draft Harbour Liaison Forum Constitution as set out in Appendix 1 be approved for consultation;

(ii) that the Executive Head of Harbour Marine Services be asked to consult with the Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum and the Torquay/Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum over the draft Constitution; and

(iii) that following consultation with the two Harbour Liaison Forums, a final version of the Harbour Liaison Forum Constitution be submitted to the Harbour Committee for approval.

344. 2008/09 Performance – Marine Services. The Committee received Report 278/2008 setting out the first quarter performance information for Marine Services. The Committee noted that its terms of reference included performance monitoring as a function of the Harbour Committee and, unlike other Council services, there were not nationally established performance indicators for Harbour and Marine Services.

The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services requested the Committee to identify further performance indicators. A number of suggestions were made including the number of safety inspections made, the number of reportable incidents, the percentage of berths that were let and the number of people on the waiting list.

(Note: Prior to consideration of the items in Minutes 345 and 346 the press and public were formally excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the items involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.)

345. Brixham Regeneration – Phases I and II. Members received exempt Report

276/2008 which provided an update on the progress and status of the Brixham Regeneration Project. It was noted that the funding structure had been amended in light of changes to the original scheme.

Resolved: (i) that the status of the Brixham Regeneration Programme, Phase I and II (Brixham Harbour), including the specific detail provided on the anticipated costings and funding arrangements contained in Appendix 1 to exempt Report 276/2008 be noted;

(ii) that the revisions to the funding structure (as set out in exempt Report 276/2008) be noted and the Chief Executive be recommended to exercise her delegated authority to approve said revisions; and

(iii) that the Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency, in consultation with the Deputy Mayor, the Chairman of the Harbour Committee, the Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services, and the Director of Finance, be authorised, subject to the revised overall funding/cost package being approved, to let the construction contract for Phase II of the Brixham project, with the clear intention that Phase II of the Brixham Project should proceed as soon as practicable, with a view to a start on construction in January 2009.

(Note: Prior to consideration of minute 345 Mr Bedford declared a personal prejudicial interest and withdrew from the meeting room.)

346 Torbay Sailability Limited. Members considered exempt Report 279/2008 on a request for a reduction in harbour charges by Torbay Sailability.

Resolved: that the application for a reduction in harbour fees be refused, on the grounds that no other reductions are made to harbour charges for other Town Dock users.