



## **Minutes of the Harbour Committee**

**14 September 2009**

**-: Present :-**

Councillor Horne (Chairman)

Councillor Addis, Carter (C), Ellery, Faulkner (J), Manning and Richards

External Advisor Bedford, Butcher, Curtis, Hayes and Jennings

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### **227 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bent.

### **228 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Harbour Committee held on 22 June 2009 were confirmed as a correct record subject to the inclusion of apologies from Councillor Faulkner (J) and signed by the Chairman.

### **229 Urgent Items**

a) The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services brought to the attention of the Committee an article which had appeared in the Herald Express concerning the development of Paignton Harbour. The Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency (TDA) had been invited along to the Committee to give an update on the proposals and the background behind the article.

The Chief Executive of the TDA explained that the proposals for development of Paignton Harbour were part of the five sites identified within the Mayoral Vision as part of the package for economic prosperity in Paignton. Feasibility studies had been undertaken and proposals would be taken forward for consideration, through the official council decision-making process.

The Committee stressed the need for open communication to enable the Harbour Committee to be fully involved in projects which directly impacted upon its area of responsibility, the Harbour Estate. The Committee's particular concern related to the feeding of information through the media, and stressed the importance of it receiving this information first.

The Harbour Committee would also need to clarify exactly where it fitted within the decision-making process, to ensure effective input of strategic harbour authority advice

at the appropriate time. Assisting with this would be an up-to-date review of the Harbour Estate's assets and seeking advice on what assets could be considered for regeneration.

**Resolved:** that the Harbour Asset Review Working Party would meet:

- 1) to prepare a formal Harbour Committee response to the Paignton Harbour proposals, when they are known; and
- 2) to look at the Harbour Estate's asset base.

b) The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services announced that Ms Maxwell had tendered her resignation as an External Advisor to the Harbour Committee. The Committee formally thanked her for her input over the years and wished her luck in her future endeavours.

The Committee discussed the constitutional requirements to be met in replacing Ms Maxwell as an external private sector advisor. It was commented that should the Council agree to the Economic Development Company (EDC) being formed out of the TDA, then Mr Parrock would become the Director of a private company and the Board of the new EDC could possibly appoint him to sit on the Harbour Committee as an external advisor.

(**Note:** Prior to consideration of Minute No. 229 Ms Hayes declared a personal interest as she was the Director of Living Coasts and Chair of the South West Regional Environmental Protection Advisory Committee.)

## 230 Harbour Liaison Forum Minutes

The Committee noted the minutes of the Torquay and Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum held on 1 September 2009 and the Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum held on 2 September 2009 (as set out in Report 191/2009).

The Committee requested an update on the Brixham breakwater slipway (No. 8 of the Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum minutes) which had now been listed Grade II by English Heritage. It was explained that the listing would not have any immediate operational impact and the discussion then expanded to cover capital repair work identified for the breakwater. Members also asked about the problems with the new Yacht Club slipway. The options identified in the feasibility study for mitigation of the problem were expensive and could not guarantee success. In the meantime, the Yacht Club was monitoring the usability of Oxen Cove slipway, and consideration was being given to the use of a pontoon to limit the wave energy reaching the slipway.

**Resolved:** that a report on the repairs to the breakwater would be presented to the Committee at its December meeting.

The Committee also asked for clarification on the repair work scheduled for Haldon Pier and in particular whether the cheapest option for provision of the stone had been contracted. The Executive Head for Harbour and Marine Services reassured the Committee that although initially it might have been felt that French stone would be the most cost effective option due to market fluctuations the contractor had identified a Norwegian provider who could offer the stone at a lower rate.

The Committee questioned whether additional stone could be brought in during this process to be used on the Brixham breakwater. Officers informed the Committee that the two repair problems were quite different and the solution at Brixham did not require any additional rock.

### **231 Harbour and Marine Services Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report**

The Committee received Report 192/2009 which identified the latest situation in relation to the Harbour and Marine Services Budget. The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services summarised the Statement of Accounts and highlighted the change in outturn figures with the prediction for Torquay and Paignton Harbours' surplus rising from £19K to £43K, and the deficit for Brixham Harbour increasing from £53k to £65K.

For Torquay and Paignton there had been an increase in forecast income, some of which had been offset by the decrease in interest rates, however, this still produced an overall increase in the surplus. Brixham was of particular concern to the Committee as the drop in marine income, harbour dues income and interest income further exacerbated difficulties in managing a tight budget, with increases in the repairs and maintenance funds required. With this in mind it would be important to look at all options for managing expenditure against a falling income.

**Resolved:** to form a Budget Working Party to scrutinise the draft Harbour and Marine Budget for 2010/11 prior to presentation to the Harbour Committee.  
Membership: Councillors Horne and Carter (C), Ms Hayes, Mr Jennings and supporting officers.

(**Note:** Prior to consideration of Minute No. 231 Mr Jennings declared a personal interest as he was involved in the Job Evaluation process.)

### **232 Harbour and Marine Services Performance Indicators**

The Executive Head for Harbour and Marine Services introduced an increased set of indicators for the Harbour Committee to review, as detailed in Report 193/2009. The new indicators, which had been added to the original four, would provide the Committee with a balanced scorecard for the services they monitored. The new indicators were listed, but did not currently have data to populate them, and a full report would be presented to the Committee in December, once the scorecard had been fully developed.

The Committee noted a particular interest in the performance of attracting the tourist market, with the improvement of capacity alongside other big maritime events, and the need to ensure that the assets of the Harbour Estate were fully reviewed and strategic advice gained on how these should be dealt with going forward.

#### **234 Annual Harbour Users Survey**

The Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services presented Report 194/2009 to the Committee detailing the results of the Tor Bay Harbour Users Survey 2009. Significant results brought to the attention of the Committee was the 35% of users who wanted extra water and electricity services, coupled with the 71% who would not be willing to pay extra for these services. The Committee also commented on the role the Harbour Liaison Forums played in the perception of users to influence decisions.

It was stressed to the Committee that this survey was of existing customers and did not explore potential customers sitting on the harbour waiting lists, and that further surveys could be developed to target the views of potential customers and young people.

(**Note:** Prior to consideration of Minute No. 234 Mr Parrock (Chief Executive of the Torbay Development Agency) declared a personal interest as he had a mooring at the Torquay Town Dock.)

#### **235 Accommodation at Brixham Harbour for Brixham 21**

The Committee considered Report 195/2009 which updated it on the decision taken by the Executive Head of Harbour and Marine Services under his delegated authority, to grant a new lease to Brixham 21 Ltd in respect of portacabin space at Brixham Harbour.

The new lease would offer the same arrangements as was currently offered to Brixham 21 but referred to portacabin space rather than permanent facilities. The lease would run until December 2010, at which time the portacabin would be removed from the quayside, and new permanent arrangements would need to be made by Brixham 21. Steve Parrock, Chief Executive TDA, indicated that he would assist Brixham 21 in their search for new permanent accommodation arrangements following the December 2010 deadline to vacate the portacabin at Brixham Harbour.

(**Note:** Prior to consideration of Minute No. 235 Mr Bedford declared a personal and prejudicial interest, he remained in the room.)

#### **236 Torquay Rowing Club**

The Committee considered exempt Report 196/2009 on the application for a grant for Torquay Rowing Club.

**Deferred:** consideration of the grant application subject to receipt of further information.

(**Note:** Prior to consideration of exempt Report 196/2009, 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 (as amendment).)

(**Note 2:** Prior to consideration of Minute No. 236 Councillor Horne declared a personal and prejudicial interest and left the room, Councillor Richards in the Chair. Councillor Addis declared a personal interest as he was a member of the Sports Council. Mr Butcher declared a personal and prejudicial interest, he remained in the room.)

Chairman

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