

Report 56/2011

Meeting Title	Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue	Brixham Harbour Office
Date	2nd March 2011 at 10.30

Present	Capt P Labistour (PL) Capt K Mowat (KM) Mr R Smith (RS) Ms H Meacock (HM) Mr N Ritson (NR)	Capt B Curtis (BC) Mr D Saunders (DS) Mr D Ham (DH) Miss A Blackburn (AB)	Mr N Wright (NW) Mr K Bower (KB) Ms S Gibson (SG) Mr G Wright (GW)
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Agenda Items

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last minutes
 - a) Harbour charges – fishing vessel mooring fees
 - b) Victoria Breakwater
 - c) Electricity Recharge
4. Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
5. Finding Sanctuary
6. Oxen Cove/Freshwater Quarry and Northern Arm Breakwater
7. Moorings Contract
8. Heritage Vessel project
9. Seafood Training
10. Fishing for Litter
11. Brixham Fish Quay Regeneration
 - a) Official Opening
 - b) Restaurant/Fishmongers
 - c) Public Realm
 - d) Deck Strengthening
12. Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan
13. Changes to the Tor Bay Harbour Moorings Policy
14. Consultation on proposals to modernise the Coastguard
15. Maritime Events 2011
16. Harbour Committee
 - a) Upcoming Agenda

Date of next meeting 1st June 2011

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Mrs Sandy Armstrong, Mr R Richardson & Cllr R Horne	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
	It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 24 th November 2010 were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	

3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	<p>Harbour charges – fishing vessel mooring fees</p> <p>Fishermen Graham Wright and Nigel Ritson joined the meeting for this item. GW expressed concern and disappointment over the significant percentage increase in his fishing vessel mooring fee for 2011/12. He said that he understood that these large increases would not occur in Brixham this year as they had done last year. KM explained the difference between the harbour dues increase towards parity, which had been halted this year, as opposed to the mooring fee increase towards parity that had continued. BC also expressed surprise about this increase but KM read out an extract from the Harbour Committee report received in December 2010 which clearly indicated that this particular charge would continue to increase. KM went on to explain that all moorings cost the same to provide regardless of the end user and he indicated why the fish tolls were a separate charge for different facilities. GW said that he understood that charges needed to increase most years but his invoice this year was a shock and he felt that he had not been consulted. KM undertook to speak with Cllr Horne about his meeting with GW last year and he would advise GW of the outcome.</p>	KM
(b)	<p>Victoria Breakwater</p> <p>PL reported that the structural survey had been completed and no significant concerns had been found. He said that the repairs would now wait until the full report had been digested.</p> <p>KM stated that a £40,000 grant from the EA had been spent on the survey, which included the collection of some core samples, and they found that the breakwater is made up of the same material on the inside as on the outside. i.e. large rock boulders. He indicated that this was good news as it meant that the structure was well founded. More information would be available at the next Forum meeting.</p>	PL & KM
(c)	<p>Electricity Recharge</p> <p>PL stated that recharging electricity consumed by fishing boats berthed alongside was still a project in hand. He said that the Harbour Authority would install a system that would allow a fair method of recharging for our customers and the Council's energy manager was investigating the best solution.</p>	PL

4.	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	
	<p>PL reported that a consultation document had been received from Natural England (NE) regarding the conservation objectives for the site. The document also provided information on any operations that may cause deterioration of natural habitats or the habitats of species, or the disturbance of species. . Natural England's aim is to formalise their advice package by April 2011. More detailed and meaningful dialogue with Tor Bay Harbour Authority, as a 'relevant authority', will continue during 2011/12. KB indicated that the early focus of attention for NE was in the Lyme Bay area of the SAC rather than Tor Bay.</p>	

5.	Finding Sanctuary	
	<p>KM reported that Finding Sanctuary were continuing to recommend a Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) within Tor Bay Harbour limits. He indicated that the British Ports Association had also raised their concerns over the designation process.</p>	

5.	Finding Sanctuary	Action
	<p>KM advised the Forum that he considered the MCZ designation to be unnecessary in Tor Bay and he had advised Finding Sanctuary of his objection on behalf of the Harbour Authority. Proposed conservation measures had still not been discussed and activity restrictions were unclear. Full public consultation would take place in December 2011. KM stated he would continue to attend relevant meetings and keep the Forum updated. KB indicated that fishermen were also against the proposed MCZ for Tor Bay.</p>	KM
6.	Oxen Cove/Freshwater Quarry & Northern Arm Project	Action
	<p>PL outlined the progress being made by various consultants in respect of the Oxen Cove/Freshwater Quarry development brief and also the Northern Arm design and costing project. He indicated that a number of local stakeholders and partners were involved in the process and that the RDA funded work should be completed by the end of March 2011.</p>	
7.	Moorings Contract	Action
	<p>PL advised the Forum that the new three year contract for mooring maintenance had been won by Teignmouth Maritime Services. A pre-contract meeting had been arranged and the Authority was looking forward to expanding the relationship with this local contractor.</p>	
8.	Heritage Vessel Project	Action
	<p>PL welcomed Sally Gibson to the meeting and asked her to talk about the forthcoming heritage vessel project. SG explained that two local heritage boats will be alongside in the inner harbour undergoing various restoration works. The idea was to engage with the public so that they could safely view the work and learn about the heritage as well as the restoration techniques.</p>	
9.	Seafood Training	Action
	<p>PL informed the Forum of some seafood training events that might be of interest.</p>	
10.	Fishing for Litter	Action
	<p>PL explained how the Harbour Authority was engaged in the "Fishing for Litter" project. He described the aim of the project and the practicable aspects. PL indicated that it was good to be part of a project that sought to clean up the marine environment and he hoped that more fishermen will want to get involved.</p>	
11.	Brixham Fish Quay Regeneration	Action
(a)	<p>Official Opening PL ran through the itinerary for the Royal opening on the 29th March 2011.</p>	
(b)	<p>Restaurant/Fishmongers PL updated the Forum on the progress of negotiations with the prospective tenant for the new restaurant/fishmongers at the entrance to the new Fish Quay building.</p>	

11.	Brixham Fish Quay Regeneration	Action
(c)	Public Realm PL indicated that the Public Realm works were progressing well and should be completed by the end of March or early April. The coastal footpath was due to re-open in about a week's time.	
(d)	Deck Strengthening PL explained that the deck strengthening work underneath the heavy goods vehicles' loading bay was not without its challenges. The works were tidal in nature, sometimes very noisy and scaffolding meant that part of the quayside berth had to be kept clear. However, PL explained that this work was expected to finish in April.	
12.	Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan	Action
	KM thanked those who had provided comments following circulation of the draft Tor Bay Business Plan. He indicated that these comments would be incorporated where possible prior to the plan being submitted to the Harbour Committee on 14 th March. Further comments were invited from the Forum.	
13.	Changes to the Tor Bay Harbour Moorings Policy	Action
	KM made the Forum aware of the proposed changes which included :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity over non refundable waiting list deposits • A new mooring exchange scheme for the Torquay Town Dock • Confirmation that persons under the age of 18 could not hold facilities in their own right – the account must be in the name of an adult • Boat owning partnerships could only include a maximum of three, details must be declared when the facility is first allocated & the partners must be 18 years or older To improve efficiencies a new £50 administration charge was to be introduced for customers promoting a change of facility.	
14.	Consultation on proposals to modernise the Coastguard	Action
	KM reported that he had prepared a draft response to the MCA's consultation exercise and that it included the outcome of a unanimous motion passed by Torbay Council. He said that the Council were very concerned about the proposed closure of the Brixham MRCC and the impact that closure would have on maritime safety. KM indicated that he would welcome any further contributions to the response which would now be considered by the Harbour Committee. The Forum strongly supported the position taken by the Council to oppose the closure of the Brixham coastguard station. PL reminded the Forum that there would be a rally on Brixham harbour side at 1400 on 10 th March followed by a consultation meeting at Brixham Community College starting at 1930.	
15.	Maritime Events 2011	Action
	PL reported that a comprehensive list of Maritime Events for 2011 was now available to download from the Tor Bay Harbour website. KM told the Forum that it was another busy year of events and additional details were still emerging. The website list would be updated as required.	

16.	Harbour Committee Upcoming Agenda	Action
	PL informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the Harbour Committee meeting on 14 th March.	

Next Meeting	1 st June 2011	10.30am
Venue	Brixham Harbour Office	
Future Meetings	31 st August 2011	10.30am
	23 rd November 2011	10.30am
	22 nd February 2012	10.30am

Dates of Harbour Committee Meetings	14 th March 2011	5.30pm (Paignton)
	13 th June 2011	5.30pm (Torquay)
	12 th September 2011	5.30pm (Brixham)
	5 th December 2011	5.30pm (Paignton)
	5 th March 2012	5.30pm (Torquay)