

Meeting Title	Brixham Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue	Brixham Harbour Office
Date	5 th December 2013 at 10.30am

Present	Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mrs A Blackburn (AB)	Mr J Wilson (JW)
	Cllr V Ellery (VE)	Mr D Bartlett (DB)	Mr D Saunders (DS)
	Cllr R Stringer (RS)	Mr M Stewart (MS)	Mr D Jones (DJ)
	Miss R Irish (RI)	Miss S Clark (SC)	Mrs H Meacock (HM)

Agenda Items	1. Apologies
	2. Minutes of the last meeting
	3. Matters arising from the last minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) IFCA Byelaw changes b) Electricity recharge project c) Latent defects d) Torbay Lass e) Fish Market Advisory Group f) Crab care project
	4. Capital Works <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fenders, capping & ladders - update b) Victoria Breakwater - update c) MDL Sealift – update d) Ice Plant - update
	5. Marine Conservation Zones
	6. Maritime Events 2014
	7. Harbour Budget & Harbour Charges 2014/15
	8. Port Marine Safety Code - audit
	9. Appointment of External Advisor
	10. RNLI Pontoon Berth
	11. MS Emsstrom
	12. Port Masterplan - update
	13. Harbour Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Upcoming Agenda
Date of next meeting 6 th March 2014 at 10.30	

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Apologies were received from Cllr Nicole Amil, Jerry Carter, Bob Curtis and Tim Robbins. KM regrettably informed the Forum that due to budget constraints Paul Labistour's post had been made redundant. KM will be splitting his time between the two harbours and also stated that there should be no change within the management structure at Brixham Harbour, with Dave Bartlett still fulfilling his role as Deputy Harbour Master.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
	It was agreed that the minutes of the last meeting on the 11 th September 2013, were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	
3.	Matters Arising	Action
a)	IFCA Byelaw changes SC, from the IFCA, explained to the Forum that new byelaws will allow easier and quicker management of the fishery and, with IVMS, can be changed in the light of new data coming through. This will then be extended by introducing permitting byelaws and fishermen that are issued with a permit will have to agree to the terms and conditions of the permit.	
b)	Electricity recharge project DB informed the Forum that the MFV basin and the crane pier both now have the facilities to recharge all electricity used. The new system is working well with just a few minor issues that need resolving. KM said that he was anticipating a reduction in electricity consumption and an income from recharging. This was necessary to reduce net costs by as much as a third.	
c)	Latent defects KM stated that the cost of putting right the remaining defects on the new Fish Quay building should be around £20k rather than the £40k that was expected. Most if the issues have been rectified, the last defect being the roller shutter doors for the Market, which have been ordered and are due to be installed by the end of the year.	
d)	Torbay Lass KM informed the Forum that the Torbay Lass project has had the first element agreed by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). However, due to weather conditions the vessel is not due to be moved to Brixham until next spring. Local fund raising was now required along with a secondary bid to the HLF.	
e)	Fish Market Advisory Group KM informed the Forum that in light of the progress with the latent defects and the fact that DB is now having regular meetings with BTA, he didn't see the need to keep up with the meetings of this Group. The Forum agreed.	
f)	Crab Care Project KM asked the Forum if any further action was required. VE stated that the crab care signs were now located around the Harbour, with lots of positive feedback from members of the public.	

4.	Capital Works	Action
a)	<p>Fenders, capping & ladders - update DM reported that the fenders, capping & ladders works were very nearly complete, with just a small section by the fuel berth to be completed. DB also said that the new and improved landing davit had been installed and was operational, in a suitable position approved by BTA. There are a few ladders spare that will be used to replace others around the inner harbour next year.</p>	DB
b)	<p>Victoria Breakwater - update KM reported that a budget existed of £150k for the repair works, secured from the Environment Agency and the repairs were scheduled for 2014/15. However, urgent repair work has been identified on the bull nose end and £50k of the budget will be brought forward to address this problem with the remainder of the works to follow as planned.</p>	KM
c)	<p>Sealift MDL KM informed the Forum that the Sealift purchased by Brixham Marina (MDL) is up and running and in daily use. They may have a challenge with the pricing structure but the Forum agreed that it is a welcome addition to the facilities that Brixham harbour can offer to visiting vessels.</p>	
d)	<p>Ice Plant DB reported that the old Ice Plant was in the process of being dismantled and the new smaller and more efficient Ice Plant will be installed by the end of January 2014. Teignmouth Maritime Services are overseeing the works.</p>	

5.	Marine Conservation Zones	Action
	<p>KM reported that the Defra Minister had recently announced that the proposed Tor Bay MCZ had now been designated. It was too early to say what management measures might be forthcoming but KM indicated that the IFCA were nearly ready with new Byelaws to enable them to control some fishing activity. Restrictions on recreational boating were unlikely without clear evidence of damage to a protected feature. KM undertook to keep the Forum informed of the likely impacts of the new MCZ designation.</p>	

6.	Maritime Events 2014	Action
	<p>KM stated that a full programme was emerging for 2014 and that he would circulate a draft schedule of events before posting the draft list on the harbour website before the 24th December. DS asked KM to note that the Torbay Fishing Festival would take place between 5th ~ 14th September 2014. If anyone had any additional event information they were asked to contact KM.</p>	

7.	Harbour Budget & Harbour Charges 2014/15	Action
	<p>KM stressed that the Council had to save £22m over the next two years and the Harbour Authority had to play its part. The Harbour Committee's Budget Review Working Party had been working with him to draw up some recommendations. He explained that he was proposing that the cash dividend remained at 6% of income but an addition contribution of £125K would be made in 2014 by way of an asset rental charge. Also, any operational surplus from 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 would be passed to the centre if the reserve fund level remained above the minimum level. The Harbour Authority</p>	

	<p>would also be taking on the responsibility and running costs for the harbourside public toilets at Beacon Quay, Paignton harbour and New Pier, Brixham. KM confirmed his earlier announcement that for the first time in his career with the Harbour Authority it was necessary to make redundancies. The post of Deputy Harbour Master at Torquay and the Tor Bay Harbour Master post at Brixham would cease. KM continued by stressing that his recommendation would be that any payments to the Council's general fund budget should be in the form of one off annual contributions through 2014/15 and 2015/16 and not a permanent arrangement. His view was that any significant contribution over and above the current arrangement was probably unsustainable.</p> <p>Harbour charges in general would only be recommended to increase in line with inflation at 3% but with a higher increase of 5% for Town Dock customers in Torquay. Passenger boat charges would be increased significantly for use of landing and embarkation facilities but there would be no increase to visitor rates, slipway charges and cruise ship passenger charges. KM asked members of the Forum if they were in favour of the rise in charges and all agreed that it was a fair increase.</p>	
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8.	Port Marine Safety Code - audit	Action
	<p>The audit had been completed and a satisfactory report would be made to the December Harbour Committee. Some improvements were suggested including work relating to Standard Safe Operating Procedures. KM reported that there had been 82 accidents incidents within the Bay in the previous year. There had been 3 fatalities none of which could have been prevented by Harbour Authority action.</p>	

9.	Appointment of External Advisor	Action
	<p>KM reported that Gorgon Jennings had stepped down from the Harbour Committee and that Mike Ellis had been recommended for appointed as an External Advisor to the Harbour Committee.</p>	

10.	RNLI Pontoon Berth	Action
	<p>KM informed the Forum that it has been agreed that the lifeboat pontoon berth will be moved slightly to a north/south orientation, so as to improve the berthing arrangement for the RNLI. This is to offer protection for the lifeboat as well as the pontoon.</p>	

11.	MS. Emsstrom	Action
	<p>KM stated that the exclusion zone surrounding the wreck has now been lifted and that survey work is due to finish in January 2014. The wreck will remain in her current position and the emergency wreck marking buoys will be replaced by four permanent Cardinal Marks. Also, the deep water anchorage may be reduced in size, away from the wreck site. The wreck can now be used for diving and other recreational uses, which should have a positive impact on the visitor economy.</p>	ALL to note

12.	Port Masterplan - update	Action
	KM informed the Forum that the Council would be asked to adopt the Plan at their meeting later that evening.	ALL to note

13.	Harbour Committee	Action
	Upcoming agenda KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the next Harbour Committee meeting on 16 th December 2013 at the Town Hall in Torquay at 5.30pm.	ALL to note

Next Meeting

Venue

Future meetings

6 th March 2014	10.30 am
Brixham Harbour Office	
28 th May 2014	10.30 am (to be confirmed)

Dates of Harbour

Committee

Meetings

16 th December 2013	5.30pm (Torquay)
17 th March 2014	5.30pm (Brixham)
9 th June 2014	5.30 pm (Torquay) (to be confirmed)