

Meeting Title
Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum
Venue

Torquay Harbour Office

Date

22nd November 2011 at 10.30

Present

Capt K Mowat (KM)	Mr J Bond (JB)	Mr W Butcher (WB)
Mr J Turner (JT)	Mr M Smith (MS)	Capt P Labistour (PL)
Mr M Ritchie (MR)	Cllr V Ellery (VE)	Mr D White (DW)
Cllr R Stringer (RS)	Ms S Armstrong (SA)	

Agenda Items

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last minutes
 - a) Marine Conservation Zones
 - b) Paignton Harbour - decriminalised parking review update
 - c) Ark Royal bid - update
 - d) Oil Spill Response Plan - update
 - e) Port Waste Management Plan - update
 - f) Broadsands Watersports Centre - update
4. Capital Works
 - a) Haldon Pier – update
5. Town Dock – Torquay
6. Torquay Inner Harbour - pontoon berths to replace chain moorings
7. Torquay Outer Harbour - drying grid proposal
8. Grinding within Harbour areas – MS
9. Increased Seagull population - MS
10. Sustainable Transport Fund Bid - ferry infrastructure
11. Harbour Committee External Advisor - update
12. Maritime Events 2012
 - a) Proposed world record charity anchor attempt - 21st July 2012
13. Port Marine Safety Code - audit
14. Automated external defibrillator
15. Harbour Budget and Charges 2012/13
16. Harbour Committee
 - a) Upcoming Agenda

Date of the next meeting 21st February 2012 10.30am

NOTE: Prior to the start of the meeting David White from the TDA gave those present an update of the latest position concerning proposals for the Banjo and MDL car park area at Torquay harbour. This included a number of artist's impressions of possible development schemes. DW gave assurances that it was early days and the schemes were still fairly fluid in terms of proposed final designs. He also undertook to keep the Forum and the Harbour Committee informed of developments.

1.	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Apologies were received from Cllr J Richards, Cllr J Faulkner, Mr D Musgrove and Mr M Ould.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting	Action
	It was agreed that the minutes of the 30 th August 2011 meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting.	
3.	Matters Arising	Action
(a)	Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) KM reported that Defra had identified that there were a number of gaps and limitations in the scientific evidence base supporting the MCZ recommendations. Consequently Defra have announced that a 6 month delay would occur in the MCZ designation process. An in depth review of the evidence base would be undertaken along with further seabed and habitat monitoring. It was therefore unlikely that the public consultation process would commence before the end of 2012. KM indicated that more information could be found on the Defra website.	All
(b)	Paignton Harbour – decriminalised parking review update KM reported that the review had resulted in an amended order being sought that would extend the 20 minute parking bays all through the season. Also, the permit only bays and loading bay would become enforceable all year round. JB highlighted the fact that the volumes of traffic using the harbour was disproportionate to its size and the use of the loading bay was abused by articulated lorries and commercial wagons monopolising the facility whether loading or not. KM responded that both he and JT were more than aware of his difficulties but there was very little additional action that could be taken unless it was found that vehicles were actually parked, not loading and obstructing the harbour operation. The amended TRO will now be progressed.	JT/KM
(c)	Ark Royal bid - update KM made those present aware that survey work needed to be carried out on various sites in Lyme Bay and that the MoD were due to make an announcement of their intentions in December or early in 2013.	PL
(d)	Oil Spill Response Plan - update A revised and updated plan had recently been drafted which had been circulated for consultation. PL asked everyone to let him know if they would like a copy or if they had any comments.	All
(e)	Port Waste Management Plan - update A revised and updated plan had recently been drafted which had been circulated for consultation. PL asked everyone to let him know if they would like a copy or if they had any comments. KM was asked to ensure that the fuel berth operator was circulated a copy of the plan and that they had a suitable plan of their own.	PL KM All
(f)	Broadsands Water Sport Centre - update Torbay Council continued to have aspirations about such a centre and possible partners included Grenville House, South Devon College and Paignton Sailing Club. However, no external funding was currently available and any scheme would probably have to be linked to any future development of Paignton Harbour.	

4.	Capital Works	Action
(a)	<p>Haldon Pier – update</p> <p>KM reported that the trial use of mini piles, as a repair methodology, had proved to be too intrusive and had caused some structural problems. Other repair methods will be used in the future. KM explained that some further work to the seaward side of the pier would be undertaken this winter along with some repairs to the inner wall. This work will include concrete spraying and some additional rock armouring in a small area close to the original end of the pier. Also, some underwater repairs to the foundation blocks on the inner face. These works are likely to proceed in December, January and February. A Notice to Mariners will be issued as required. The second bid for a further £7m funding from the EA was progressing ahead of submission in spring of 2012.</p>	KM
5.	Town Dock – Torquay	Action
	<p>KM informed the Forum that “No cycling” signs would be erected as would notices concerning subletting. He also said that similar information would be posted by email. Consideration was still being given to advertising on the bridge. There continued to be problems with cracking in the steel structure and a consultant metallurgist was being sought in an attempt to establish a long term solution. On a related matter KM explained to the Forum that the Beacon Quay pontoon ramp was currently away being refurbished. When the bridge returns it will be re-decked. KM was also considering solar lighting as an option.</p>	KM
6.	Torquay Inner Harbour - pontoon berths to replace chain moorings	Action
	<p>KM explained that the Harbour Committee had approved the principle of pontoon berths to replace chain moorings some time ago but this proposal had recently been supported by the Torquay Harbour Users Association. MR raised the issue of security and was assured that there would be a fairway around the edges of the harbour with access only being available via a bridge. The Forum was generally supportive of this pontoon project progressing sooner rather than later.</p>	KM
7.	Torquay Outer Harbour - drying grid proposal	Action
	<p>KM reported that the establishment of a drying grid may be obtainable with help from the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and an area had been identified on the outer harbour side of South Pier. KM explained that the proposal was at an early stage and it could easily be affected/delayed by the need for an MMO consent. KM asked the Forum for comments and the response was generally supportive.</p>	KM
8.	Grinding Within Harbour Areas	Action
	<p>MS made the Forum aware of the impact that grinding activity could have on the gel coat of vessels. The airborne filings can cause considerable rust damage which can ruin the finish on GRP boats. MS continued by seeking the harbour authority’s support in assisting to identify an individual who had carried out this activity even though they had been told to cease on a number of occasions. KM said that he would treat this matter very seriously and if necessary he could withdraw the offer of a berth to offending vessels. Furthermore KM agreed to help by taking grinding samples to identify any culprits. He said he would also circulate a local Notice to Mariners to cover this issue and build the prohibition of grinding activities into the mooring policy for 2012.</p>	KM

9.	Increased Seagull Population	Action
	MS raised this as an issue stressing that the MDL pontoons were continually in need of cleaning. Following some debate of the cause of this apparent increase in seagull population KM agreed to talk to the Environmental Health officers but emphasized that he doubted anything would come of it as herring gulls were a protected species and could therefore not be subject to a cull.	KM
10.	Sustainable Transport Fund Bid – ferry infrastructure	Action
	KM reported that the Transportation Planning section of Torbay Council was leading on a sustainable transport bid from the Department for Transport. They were seeking funding to establish new pontoon infrastructure in support of an all year round fast and frequent ferry service between Torquay and Brixham. If successful any such funding would establish new passenger ramps and pontoons in both harbours. The Forum was also made aware that if successful there would be significant revenue funding to help subsidise such a ferry service for at least three years. KM stressed that local operators would have the opportunity to bid to run the service. KM agreed to keep the Forum updated on any developments, especially the location of any pontoon and ramp at Torquay harbour.	KM
11.	Harbour Committee External Adviser – update	
	The Harbour Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman had now shortlisted applicants and interviews were due to take place before the 5 th December.	
12.	Maritime Events 2012	Action
(a)	Proposed world record charity anchor attempt - MS MS made the Forum aware that having discussed the possibility with the RYA it was proposed to make an attempt to break the world record for the largest number of vessels anchored together in one place. The attempt would be made in July 2012 and the resulting log would be sent to the GB Olympic team in Weymouth by way of support. It was proposed that this be a charity event in support of the RNLI and that he had already consulted with JT (in his RNLI capacity). KM indicated that the harbour authority would need to examine the proposal before he could confirm agreement for the event but he said it sounded very exciting.	KM/JT/ MS
(b)	Events Schedule 2012 The request for events submissions had already been circulated, the result of which would be collated and analysed by the Deputy Harbour Master at Torquay who would consult with those making submissions, especially where there was any overlapping of bid dates. Everyone was asked to ensure that all event information was provided as soon as possible and the first version of the 2012 Maritime Events schedule would appear on the harbour authority website before Christmas.	All AF
13.	Port Marine Safety Code - Audit	Action
	KM advised the Forum that the annual Port Marine Safety Code audit report would be presented to the December Harbour Committee meeting, which in effect would confirm the Harbour Authority's compliance. KM highlighted that the position of an independent designated person to carry out subsequent audits was likely to be put out to tender for 2012.	KM

14.	Automated External Defibrillator	
	<p>KM made those present aware that the Chairman of the Harbour Committee had raised the possibility of such equipment being available in each harbour office but that investigation had shown that such kit was of considerable expense and the cost of ownership was fairly high in terms of replacement batteries, pads and the need for ongoing training for the likely users. Advice had been sought from a local paramedic and KM shared his views with the Forum. It was made clear that an emergency ambulance should normally reach Torquay harbour in less than eight minutes but that even a minute saved by administering this kind of treatment, could save a life. There followed some debate concerning expertise and liability with the general view being expressed that, whilst perhaps nice to have, under the circumstances it was probably not the best use of harbour funds.</p>	
15.	Harbour Budget and Charges 2012/2013	
	<p>KM explained to the Forum the reasons behind a recommended cash dividend to be paid by the harbour account to the Council, based on 2.5% of income. He went on to make the Forum aware of the proposed 4% average increase in harbour charges. However, he emphasised the different variations including the higher 5.5% increase in Town Dock charges. He explained that the increase had broadly been accepted by a meeting of the Torquay Harbour Users and that the Paignton Harbour Users meeting appeared more concerned by a proposal to resurrect the need to bring harbour dues in line with that of Torquay. The meeting of Brixham Harbour Users was yet to be held. The Forum did not express any firm views about these proposals.</p>	
16.	Harbour Committee	
(a)	Upcoming Agenda	
	<p>KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the next Harbour Committee meeting on 5th December 2011 in the new Paignton Library.</p>	All

Next Meeting

Venue

Future meetings

Dates of Harbour

Committee

Meetings

21 st February 2012	10.30am
Torquay Harbour Office	
29 th May 2012	10.30am
5 th December 2011	5.30pm (Paignton)
5 th March 2012	5.30pm (Torquay)
11 th June 2012	5.30pm (Brixham)