

**Meeting Title**

**Torquay & Paignton Harbour Liaison Forum**

**Venue**

Torquay Harbour Office

**Date**

21<sup>st</sup> February 2012 at 10.30

**Present**

|                                                                              |                                                             |                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Capt K Mowat (KM)<br>Mr J Turner (JT)<br>Mr M Ould (MO)<br>Mr D Musgrove(DM) | Mr M Smith (MS)<br>Cllr V Ellery (VE)<br>Mrs H Meacock (HM) | Mr W Butcher (WB)<br>Capt P Labistour (PL)<br>Cllr J Faulkner (JF) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last minutes
  - a) Torquay inner harbour pontoon berths – Agenda Item
  - b) Torquay harbour drying grid proposal
  - c) Grinding within harbour areas
  - d) Increased seagull population
  - e) Sustainable Transport Fund Bid
  - f) Harbour Committee External Advisor - Update
4. Capital works
  - a) Haldon Pier update
  - b) Princess pier update
5. Town Dock - Torquay
6. Torquay inner harbour pontoons - Update
7. Tor Bay Harbour Business Plan 2012/13
8. Changes to the Tor Bay Harbour Moorings Policy
9. Maritime Events 2012
10. Oxen Cove Boat Yard - JT
11. Discontinuation of Brixham Directional Light
12. Angling into harbours
13. Harbour Committee
  - a) Upcoming agenda
14. Other business
  - a) Marina car park redevelopment
  - b) Ark Royal

Date of the next meeting 29th May 2012 10.30am

| 1. | Apologies for Absence                                                                | Action |
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|    | Apologies were received from Cllr B McPhail, Mr J Bond, Mr G Jennings and the Mayor. |        |

| 2. | Minutes of the last meeting                                                                                                   | Action |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
|    | It was agreed that the minutes of the 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2011 meeting were a true and accurate record of that meeting. |        |

| 3.  | Matters Arising                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Action |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (a) | <p><b>Torquay Inner Harbour Pontoon Berths</b><br/>Agenda Item 6</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |        |
| (b) | <p><b>Torquay Harbour Drying Grid Proposal</b><br/>KM reported that the Council's engineers had now been involved and outline drawings had been prepared. The MMO would need to be consulted and their approval sought which may be difficult to achieve in light of the possible environmental impact. The Forum remained supportive and KM agreed to work out a budget cost before taking any further action although Interreg funding could be sought in addition to the European Fisheries Fund.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | KM     |
| (c) | <p><b>Grinding within Harbour Areas</b><br/>KM reported that following the previous debate a letter had been sent to all the owners of steel boats and especially the fishermen. He stated that this would be followed up with a Harbour Master's and a recommendation to amend the Tor Bay Harbour Moorings Policy. The message has been and would be to cover up or shroud any grinding or potentially damaging activity. MS asked if KM had taken any samples and KM indicated that he had not. MO suggested that the recent rust damage may have been caused by contractors working adjacent to the Marina and not necessarily boat owners or fishermen. KM indicated that the problem, from whatever source, was very real and those involved in maintenance activity should guard against the risk of damage to the property of others.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | KM/PL  |
| (d) | <p><b>Increased Sea Gull Population</b><br/>KM indicated that he had investigated this issue with Environmental Health and he felt that all that could be done was being done. VE highlighted that pilot schemes were being introduced in Lyme Regis and in Cornwall with bird scaring as an option. Information was available via the Local Government Association. Several members of the Forum highlighted that such action had already been taken in the Bay with no significant effect and all the time that the herring gull remains a protected species there was little more that could be done.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |        |
| (e) | <p><b>Sustainable Transport Fund Bid</b><br/>KM reported that there had been a special meeting of the Harbour Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> January and that this had provided an opportunity for the Committee to be briefed on the content of the bid. Although the Committee had given their general support to the bid there remained concerns over the location of new pontoon infrastructure at Torquay. If the bid is successful it could amount to some £500,000 being spent on new ferry berthing facilities and the result will be known in May 2012. WB expressed concern that a fast ferry service would adversely affect the running of sailing championship events and result in a loss of income to the Bay. PL responded that he had witnessed a fast ferry running into Cowes during Cowes Week without it seeming to have any adverse effect. WB stated that his concerns related to the ferry activity inside the harbour adjacent to the slipway. The consensus opinion of the Forum was that Princess Pier was the only practical option for any fast ferry pontoon infrastructure. KM undertook to pass this message on and to keep the Forum updated on this project.</p> | KM     |
| (f) | <p><b>Harbour Committee External Advisor – Update</b><br/>KM made the Forum aware that Mr David Buckpitt had been appointed as an External Advisor to the Harbour Committee and would serve an initial term of four years.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        |

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| <b>4.</b> | <b>Capital Works</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Action</b> |
| (a)       | <p><b>Haldon Pier – update</b></p> <p>KM advised the Forum that divers were currently working on a stretch of Haldon Pier, on the inside wall, to determine a revised repair methodology. Work was also continuing on the wave modelling and business case towards a further bid to the EA for flood defence funding. The timing of this second bid for a further £7m of funding from the EA had slipped to later this year. It was still anticipated that the small amount of concrete spraying and additional rock armouring required on the outside of Haldon Pier would be completed by the summer. A Notice to Mariners will be issued as required.</p> | KM            |
| (b)       | <p><b>Princess Pier – Update</b></p> <p>KM reported that the Harbour Authority had suggested to the Council that they take over the management responsibility for the whole of the Pier but not the financial liability for the amenity element. The Forum understood and supported this approach. KM also advised the Forum that the Council remained concerned about the deteriorating condition of the Pier both below and above water. A further dive survey would be undertaken this summer.</p>                                                                                                                                                        |               |
| <b>5.</b> | <b>Town Dock – Torquay</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Action</b> |
|           | The Forum was advised that Solent Marine had been contacted and asked to design a replacement walkway pontoon in an area that was currently susceptible to cracking in the steel framework.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
| <b>6.</b> | <b>Torquay Inner Harbour - pontoon berths</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Action</b> |
|           | KM reported that some progress had been made and Solent Marine had produced an initial drawing and within a few weeks a version of this will be circulated for comment. It was hoped that an overall plan, with a business case would be put before the Harbour Committee for a decision in June. Construction would not commence before September 2013.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | KM            |
| <b>7.</b> | <b>Torquay Harbour Business Plan 2012/13</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Action</b> |
|           | KM reported that the draft plan had been circulated and he thanked those who had provided comments. He indicated that these comments would be incorporated where possible prior to the plan being submitted to the Harbour Committee on 8 <sup>th</sup> March. Further comments were invited from the Forum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | KM            |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Changes to the Torbay Harbour Mooring Policy</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Action</b> |
|           | KM reported that the only significant proposed change to be put to the Harbour Committee was a reduction in the time users could retain a mooring without having their vessel on it. This was recommended to be reduced from two years to one year. Elaine Hayes had suggested that the HM should be able to apply some discretion and KM agreed. As stated in Item 3 (c) above the Policy would also be amended to cover grinding/repair activity. The Forum considered that the proposed changes were sensible.                                                                                                                                            | KM            |

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| <b>9.</b>  | <b>Maritime Events 2012</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Action</b> |
|            | <p>KM reported that a comprehensive list of Maritime Events for 2012 was now available to download from the Tor Bay Harbour website. Hardcopies of the list were circulated to the Forum at the meeting. 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.</p> <p>JT reported that the previously notified attempt at the world record for anchored vessels had been withdrawn for logistical and financial reasons.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |               |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>Oxen Cove Boat Yard</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |               |
|            | An email had been received from a local boat yard operator, Torbay Seaways, who had asked that their concerns should be raised at the Forum regarding the recent proposal for a new boat yard facility in Oxen Cove. The comments were read out to the Forum but those present felt comfortable that the facility was needed and that there would be enough business demand.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |
| <b>11.</b> | <b>Discontinuation of Brixham Directional Light</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |
|            | PL explained that the Harbour Authority was minded to discontinue the directional light in Brixham fairway. Following a discussion the Forum had no strong views in support of continuing with this light. It is difficult to see the light against a backdrop of residential housing and street lighting, also, all the fairway buoys now carry their own lights.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>PL</b>     |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Angling into harbours</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |               |
|            | KM raised two issues regarding angling into harbours. Firstly he advised the Forum that "No Fishing" signs and angling prevention measures were being installed at the entrance to Paignton harbour. JT explained the problem at Paignton, the seriousness of the situation and the lack of response from the angling community. KM also read out a letter from Torbay & Babbacombe ASA regarding fishing inside Torquay harbour during the annual Angling Festival. The letter proposed a permit system with rules attached, to allow fishing for mullet. A sample of the light weight mullet fishing tackle was shown to the Forum and the proposal was discussed. In the end the Forum were quite clear that the Harbour Master should not permit angling into the harbour or harbour entrance and this view was backed by the Chairman of the Harbour Committee. |               |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>Harbour Committee</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Action</b> |
| <b>(a)</b> | <b>Upcoming Agenda</b><br>KM informed the Forum of the items on the agenda for the next Harbour Committee meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 in Torquay Town Hall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |               |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>Other Business</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Action</b> |
| <b>(a)</b> | <b>Marina car park redevelopment</b><br>KM reported that there had been a special meeting of the Harbour Committee on 30 <sup>th</sup> January to discuss proposals for the redevelopment of the marina car park in Torquay. The Forum was provided with an update on the proposals and the recommendations provided to the Council from the Harbour Committee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |

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| <b>14.</b> | <b>Other Business cont....</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
| <b>(b)</b> | <b>Ark Royal</b><br>KM was asked to provide an update on the progress of a bid to secure the decommissioned Ark Royal as a wreck and dive site. KM and VE gave a verbal update on the latest developments. |  |

**Next Meeting  
Venue**

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2012      | 10.30am |
| Torquay Harbour Office.        |         |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2012 | 10.30am |

**Dates of Harbour  
Committee  
Meetings**

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2012      | 5.30pm (Torquay)  |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> June 2012      | 5.30pm (Brixham)  |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2012 | 5.30pm (Paignton) |