

MEETING OF THE PADSTOW HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS 09/17

HELD AT THE PADSTOW HARBOUR OFFICE

ON THURSDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mr M England, Chairman, Mr B Murt, Mr A Hoskin, Mr W Jago, Mr D Martin, Mr G Saunders, Capt R Atkinson.

Apologies: Mr C Toogood, Mr M Stacey, Mr S Summers

In Attendance: Mr N Billing, (DHM), Mrs N Dyer, Assistant Administrator, Mr D Lockwood & Mr P O'Neill, Padstow Commercial Speedboat Operators, Mr I Kitto, Padstow Tripping Boat Operator, Mr L Burt, F.V. Skipper / Owner and one other member of the public.

To Take Information and Comments from Any Members of the Public Present: Mr I Kitto addressed the meeting to ask for an update on the Proposed New Speed Limits. HM replied the subject had been debated at various meetings and it had been decided to hold a Special Meeting of the board of Commissioners on Thursday, 28th September in order to reach a majority decision. HM then briefly explained the process to be followed for reviewing / changing speed limits.

Mr L Burt introduced himself to the Commissioners and stated that he was representing three fishing vessel owners that have 'live aboard' crew. He thanked the Commissioners for the provision of a new shower / toilet facility but expressed his concern that it does not provide laundry facilities which he feels presents a hygiene issue for the crews living aboard. Mr Burt explained he didn't want to use a private laundry service due to the cost factor and was approaching the Commissioners for a solution to this problem. He mentioned they had been using the facilities for the last two years and as far as he was aware there had been no complaints against them.

HM agreed that the 'live aboard' crews are clean and tidy and confirmed that the harbour had not received any complaints against them. He briefly explained the rationale for restricting access to the Harbour Office / Red Brick Building shower /

laundry blocks and commented that no-one had approached the Commissioners for permission for the 'live aboard' crews to use these facilities it had just become common practice. Mr Burt responded by stating these facilities have always been made available to the fishermen and he felt it was unfair that his crew had to suffer due to a minority that had been abusing the facility. The Chairman commented the board had not considered laundry facilities when the decision had been taken to restrict access to the Harbour Office / Red Brick Building shower blocks.

Commissioner Saunders enquired if there was room to install a washing machine and tumble dryer in the new facility - it is a 'wet' room so it would need to be adapted to incorporate a laundry area and it would be difficult due to limited space. HM mentioned that one of the boat owners was considering installing a washing machine in his fisherman's store – the Commissioners did not think this was a practical solution.

This item was brought to a close and it was AGREED to discuss the matter further 'In Committee'. Mr Burt thanked the Commissioners for listening to his concerns.

**Invoices and Payments
for the period ending
13th September 2017**

Payments since the previous meeting totalled £132,290.32. Commissioner Jago declared an interest in this item.

Commissioner Martin commented on the payment for the Ice Plant. HM replied that it is quite likely the ice plant will be used less as the F.V. Charisma was leaving the port and being replaced by a new boat that has its own ice making machine onboard.

Commissioner Martin enquired how the appeal against the Business Rates was progressing. HM advised that he had met with Scott Mann, MP, regarding another matter and took the opportunity to raise the Commissioners' concerns regarding the fact the business rates had quadrupled. Furthermore, Trust Port guidance specifies that we should be on a level playing field with other Trust Ports and there are other ports with a similar turnover to ours whose business rates are considerably lower. As Scott Mann is the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Department of Transport he is keen to look into this further so HM has forwarded our information onto him.

HM confirmed that he has started the new online appeals process 'Check, Challenge, Appeal' which is not very user

friendly and is proving quite time consuming. HM informed the Commissioners that it may be prudent to appoint a Business Rates Advisor to fight the appeal on PHC's behalf.

Approval of Minutes
08/17

The Minutes were passed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by GS and seconded by ME.

Matters Arising
from Meeting
08/17

Mr Fishlock – Rock Mooring - HM informed the Commissioners that Mr Fishlock's name had been added to the Rock Mooring Transfer List.

Fishermens Shower / Toilet – A letter has been sent to all 'live aboard' fishing vessel owners informing that this new facility will be available from Wednesday, 27 September 2017 and access to the Harbour Office / Red Brick Building shower blocks will cease to operate. Only one access fob per fishing boat will be issued.

Jubilee Queen – Pool Mooring – HM advised that this had been moved back as instructed.

Dredge Bucket – M.V. Mannin – The modification to replace the teeth with a cutting edge is almost complete. This will be used in January for the South Dock dredging project.

Sewer Pipe Across South Dock – Still awaiting confirmation from South West Water that this pipeline is no longer in use and redundant.

Pontoon South Dock – MMO Licence – The Marine Licence has been approved with no objections and will be issued to PHC in due course. AGREED to hire in a digger and the Deputy Harbour Master undertake the necessary works to level off the mud in this area. **Action:** DHM to confirm a timetable for the works.

Mudder Boots – HM advised that he and the Harbour Foreman had tried out the boots in deep mud today and they had worked well. To be used when next carrying out mooring maintenance or mud rescues.

Information Signs – Map of Estuary – HM circulated a proof of the design for Commissioners approval. The sign will measure 600mm x 600mm. AGREED to give Commissioners time to study the proof and notify of any alterations at the next meeting. **Action:** For approval at the next meeting.

Financial Briefing

A profit and loss account was presented to the meeting, together with a current bank and debtors situation

Correspondence

2017 Padstow to Rock Swim – Mr P Tamblin writes on behalf of the Swim Committee to thank the staff and Commissioners for their support. It was a very successful day and the sponsorship monies raised by the swimmers for Marie Curie are still be collected but have already exceeded last year's total. The date for 2018 has been confirmed for Friday, 27 July 2018 on the late afternoon tide.

Pamela Solley - Charity Surf Competition Polzeath - 30 September 2017 – Pamela Solley writes to request permission for ERA Adventures, Event Safety Cover Agency, to supply a jet ski in addition to a safety boat which would provide a much faster response in an emergency should a problem arise on the day and the safety boat is unable to get on scene. *The Commissioners consider the use of jet skis on a case by case basis when special circumstances dictate their use is essential for certain events PHC may wish to support – Refer PHC Minutes 06/17.* It was suggested that the RNLI might be able to provide a jet ski rescue for this event and it was agreed that this option be explored for next year – not possible this year due to time constraints. After a lengthy discussion it was AGREED to grant permission to Mrs Solley for this year, on the basis that she will be held responsible for Era Adventure's actions and any breach of PHC's conditions. If the conditions are not adhered to Era Adventures will be refused permission in the future. Also, HM to include in the letter the Commissioners' concerns that the operator (named in her letter) had not complied with PHC's conditions in the past. **Action:** Letter and PHC Conditions to be sent to Mrs Solley.

Karen Willetts – Letter of Thanks – writes to thank the RHIB Patrol Officer for his assistance following an incident involving a catamaran and complimenting him on his friendly and helpful manner out on the water.

Wavehunters – HM read out a letter in 'Outgoing Correspondence' that had been sent to Andy Cameron regarding the storage of petrol containers in the unit at the Rock Activity Centre. *Andy Cameron has since confirmed that Wavehunters are no longer storing petrol cans on the premises.*

Port Administrators Business

Schedule of Rates - Rock Seasonal Moorings and River Dues – HM informed the Commissioners of the rate of inflation and

recommended a 3% increase for both the Rock Seasonal Moorings and River Dues. AGREED by all Commissioners present.

Channel Dredging – M.V. Mannin – The bank which has built up outside the ferry slipway had been dredged which brings the total tonnage so far this year to approximately, 6,500 tonnes. It is planned to dredge the North Quay once the trip boats have finished operating after the October half term week. Commissioner Martin enquired if the dredging licence covered a calendar year. HM confirmed that it ran from January through to December – 10,000 tonnes.

Toilet Block Development – This was put out to tender and the architect has so far received one tender price back. One of the contractors has not responded and the other contractor has encountered problems pricing the zinc roof specification but will be submitting a tender price. SPS Architects to source another contractor. **Action:** To monitor and report back to meeting.

DGW Sand – Concrete Slab, South Pier – HM enquired if the Commissioners had had any more thoughts on the price from Vanstones. A discussion ensued on the best way to reinforce the concrete slab with the Commissioners favouring rebar / steel mesh as opposed to fibre reinforced (FRC). HM advised that Danny Vanstone is convinced (FRC) is a far better alternative to traditional steel reinforcements and the apron in front of the barrier leading to the South Pier had been constructed using these materials. It would also cost more to reinforce the slab with rebar / steel mesh. HM mentioned that he was attending a Marine & Coastal Civil Engineering Expo in London next Wednesday, 27th August where an expert would be speaking about Fibre Reinforced Concrete (FRC). Previously Commissioner Summers had shown an interest in attending this event. Commissioner Saunders to notify HM if he is able to attend. HM stated that a timetable for this project would need to be planned for when the Sandsnipe next goes into drydock. Action: Await expert's opinion on FRC before making a decision.

Aerial Photographs – HM circulated aerial photographs of the channel recently taken by John Watts and a copy of previous years as a comparison for the Commissioners perusal.

UKHMA – Tuesday, 21 November 2017 – HM enquired if any Commissioners were interested in attending this seminar in London. **Action:** Commissioners to confirm at next meeting if they would like to attend.

PMSC

RHIB Patrol Officer – Report 2017 – HM handed out the RHIB Patrol Officers end of season report for the Commissioners perusal.

Fall from Padstow Harbour Wall – HM reported that a child had fallen off the wall by Clipper Steps into a gap between the pontoon and wall. The child did not suffer any injuries and the incident was captured on CCTV. The child went to sit down, missed his footing and slipped down the wall. HM stated that signage is in place warning of unguarded quaysides and there are no other preventative measures, short of installing railings, that than can be put in place to prevent a recurrence.

Sandsnipe – Lost Power and Steering – HM reported that this local vessel had recently lost its power and steering whilst dredging in the middle of the estuary near the mid ground buoy. As the tide picked up the anchor dragged and there was a reluctance to let out more cable because of swinging room and ranging of the vessel. PHC staff assisted in the RHIB Patrol keeping the vessel steady and helping to get more cable out and ensure she swung the right way at low water. A team of engineers was put aboard to carry out the repairs and she got back alongside under her own power on the afternoon high water tide. As a result of this incident HM has recommended a second anchor preferably one with high holding power to make things safer in future. The second anchor can be dropped to hold the vessel with enough cable let out so it digs in well and then the primary anchor can be dropped under forefoot to stop the vessel from yawing around.

Scallop Dredger Le Men Du - Incident 5 Sep 2017 – HM informed the Commissioners that this vessel had run aground on rocky ledges just off Greenaway Point, west of Polzeath whilst coming into Padstow on the am tide. An attempt to refloat the vessel was undertaken by PHC staff and the crews of the F.V. Charisma /Trevoise on the pm tide with the vessel coming off the rocks eight minutes before high water. The damage sustained to the vessel was minimal. An accident investigation was carried out which established the grounding was due to a navigational error by the skipper. HM has recommended the owners send a memo around to all skippers

in their fleet highlighting best practice when approaching / leaving the port.

Jubilee Queen – A yacht hit Jubilee Queen on her Pool mooring whilst letting go of the RNLI mooring. Minor damage was sustained to both vessels.

RHIB Patrol – HM informed the Commissioners that the season comes to an end on 30 September 2017. He stated that the RHIB being afloat 7-days per week during the summer months has been a positive step forward as far as safety is concerned. HM then informed the Commissioners that Leon Burt was keen to undertake the RHIB Patrol next season 2018 and he had confirmed that PHC would be happy for him to come back.

Items for Discussion

Duty Holder Training – HM reminded Commissioners that this was to be held on Monday, 6th November 2017. Times to be confirmed. **Action:** HM to remind Commissioners at next meeting.

Proposed New Speed Limits – Special Meeting – HM reminded Commissioners that this meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 28 September at 7.00 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19th October 2017 at 7.00 pm in the Padstow Harbour Office.

The meeting voted to go In Committee. Proposed by BM and seconded by RA.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2110 hours.