MEETING OF THE PADSTOW HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS 01/12

HELD AT THE PADSTOW HARBOUR OFFICE

ON THURSDAY 19th JANUARY 2012 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mr W Frisby (Chairman), Mr M England, Mr W Chown, Mr B Smith, Mr M McCarthy, Mr D R Martin, Mr S Summers, Mr W Jago, Mr M Hewitt, Capt R Atkinson (Harbour Master).

Apologies None

In Attendance: Mr N Billing (Deputy Harbourmaster), Mr A Smith and Mr M Stacey (Rock Boat Services), Mrs P Hicks (Secretary), Mr E Schliffke (Padstow Angling Centre)

To Take Information and Comments from Any Members of the Public Present:

HM recapped from the last meeting – concerns were raised about anglers on the piers with lines getting fouled on boats running gear and the potential for accidents when hooks were drawn towards passing boats. Commissioners had asked for some expert advice from the angling fraternity, so HM had asked Ed Schliffke to attend and give his views on a possible permit scheme which was being considered.

HM stated that the Commissioners were satisfied that the regular local anglers understood the needs of the boats and harbour and did not cause any problems, however sometimes visiting anglers did not understand and presented a hazard.

The Commissioners were mindful that they did not want to penalise the local anglers, but felt that a permit system would at least show that PHC were tying to control a potential hazard – the alternative, now that the subject had been raised, was to simply ignore the situations and carry on as before.

Edward Schliffke stated that HM had summed it up and that the dock was the safest place for the anglers to fish - sending them to fish on the rocks could be a health and safety issue. Fishing from the bull nose into the harbour could cause problems because you couldn’t see the smaller vessels as they came round the corner to use the ‘ferry steps’ and hence, lines weren’t wound in in time. The South dock is ok again for the locals and angling clubs but not for holiday makers.

BF thought that permits seemed a good idea, but they
would place extra admin on the harbour staff – he also felt that no charge should be made for the permits. MM asked if there should be a difference between permits for locals and holiday makers but it was felt that this could confuse the situation and a common set of rules should be found. ES said he would be happy to place a notice in the shop (Angling Centre) stating the rules and he would also be happy to issue permits on behalf of PHC if asked.

HM - The harbour byelaws also stated that anglers need permission from the harbour master (or a deputy) to fish in the harbour (which includes the approach channels) and that there should be some easy way to inform people of the rules and give them permission.

It was decided to place notices saying “No angling in the harbour area without a permit” and to operate a simple permit card system with the rules on the back of each individual’s card. Permits would be made available at the Harbour Office or the Angling Centre and individuals would just have to sign a sheet giving their name and address to obtain the permit. ES was agreeable to this.

The above ideas were proposed by MM, seconded by SS and passed unanimously.

Rules along the lines of:
You must make sure you reel your lines in when boats come past.
No South Pier fishing.
Careful casting of lines.
Pick up your litter.
No messing with equipment on or around the dock.
Permits revoked if found in violation of the above rules.

ES said that there was a club meeting in February and he would come back to the Commissioners with the feedback he received.

Invoices totalling £141,343.77 had been paid for the period 10th December 2011 to 18th January 2012.

DM questioned the payment for the hire of the cherry picker at Rock, HM explained this was for the CCTV camera at Rock but he had now found a cheaper supplier for future use.

DM also asked about the legal fees for Rock Marine Services / Duchy of Cornwall – HM explained that this was for the variation of the lease on the Rock Beach i.w.o the ferry slipway and although expensive, PHC had very little option but to meet the costs.
MH asked how many sinkers each load of concrete made – HM replied 3.5 Cu m made 10 sinkers.
MM questioned the John Grimes Partnership payment – HM explained that this was in respect of the plans, organising tenders/contracts and obtaining the MMO licence required.

**Approval of Minutes 12/11**
The minutes circulated to the Commissioners prior to this meeting were then adopted as a true and accurate record of meeting 12/11.

**Matters Arising from Meeting 12/11**
Red Brick Building – As instructed, HM had asked PHC’s solicitors to write to the Estate Agent marketing one of the flats to inform them that there were restrictions on rental – contrary to how the property was being advertised.

Dog Waste – HM had ordered the Dog Waste Bin and the sack dispenser for RQCP.

Harbour Office Slipway – HM had organised the modifications, agreed at the recent site meeting, with E A Grey and start date will be 20th February 2012. The slipway should be out of action for about a week.

**Financial Briefing**
No budget figures were available as Nicky Dyer was waiting on the accountants to do the financial year end and issue the opening balances.
ND had however written a brief financial report which was read and discussed

**Correspondence**
Mr D Sidebottom, Ralph & Co. – writes regarding the leases for the Red Brick Building Flats and in particular use of the flats for other than residential purposes.

Duchy of Cornwall – write regarding the licence for the Wadebridge Pontoon. Commissioners agreed to the proposed terms and conditions. – HM to inform.

Mr T Lunt, CEYS – writes to the Commissioners to thank them for their help and support.

Mr T Swainson, John Grimes Partnership – sent an email to confirm the decision to award the contract for construction of the new Rock ferry slipway to Celtic Construction. Start date is 9th January 2012, the work should take about 8 weeks and finish around 2nd March 2012.

Farrer & Co. – write regarding the fees for the legal work varying the lease of Rock Marine Services and the Duchy of Cornwall for the new slipway at Rock. Commissioners agreed to release the funds to Ralph & Co.
Abi Miskowicz – writes to the Commissioners asking for permission to have a catering van at the Rock Quarry Car Park. The Commissioners decided against this, HM to inform.

Mrs B M Fereday – writes to the Commissioners regarding Josh Humphris - “Jaspers Boy”. Mrs Fereday complains that her grandson is being charged a different rate to other fishermen and states that she believes this is illegal. The Commissioners did not change their previous opinion that Mr Humphris was not a ‘bona fide’ fisherman and they were using their discretion (as specified in the schedule of rates) to charge alternative dues accordingly.

Mr J Tucker – writes to the Commissioners regarding fuel problems with his boat. He alleges that PHC have supplied him with poor quality fuel and this has caused him considerable expense in repairs to his engine. He requests a free mooring for two years as compensation for this problem. HM produced all the maintenance records for the fuel tank, photos of the regular test kit samples and water dip tests and stated that all fuel leaving the tank was effectively triple filtered. The ferry used a lot of PHC diesel and contrary to what was stated in Mr Tucker’s letter, it had not had any impurity problems. None of PHC’s other customers had reported problems and HM felt that this was likely to be down to fuel storage issues. The new standards for ‘red diesel’ meant that it was more prone to impurities if left standing for long periods – but this had been widely publicised by both industry and PHC to all of its customers.

The Commissioners discussed this matter and BS stated that Mr Tucker was not using his boat that often, therefore the engine was not getting regular use. WC said that Mr Tucker could always get fuel from another supplier if he felt that PHC’s fuel was not correct. All Commissioners were in agreement that no refund or compensation measures would be offered as it was not PHC’s fuel storage and delivery procedure that was at fault.

Port Administrators
Business

Mannin - She is being put on the slipway at Brazen Island, Fowey, tomorrow for Toms’ boat yard to complete repairs to the Kort Nozzle. Should be finished by the end of the following week. She will then be going to Teignmouth for a dredging job.

New PHC RHIB – Now finished and currently being coded. Weather permitting the staff training will be next Thursday/Friday and delivery back will either be by road
or sea depending on the weather forecast.

**Black Tor II – Progress on ferry –** all done now except for the coolers, two have arrived and John Martyn is making brackets for them, the other two coolers should follow in a week’s time.

**Angling – all ready covered**

**Rock Quarry Car Park –** A letter from Natural England was circulated to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. The Commissioners agreed that the letter was neither positive nor negative and BF said that from the tone of the letter, he felt PHC could try to extend the car park – or at least make some further enquiries. HM suggested asking John Grimes Partnership to look into planning permission, costs and where best to develop. BS felt that this may prove overly expensive and suggested using a local architect, John Varcoe. It was proposed by HM and seconded by WJ to get a specialist opinion and press ahead with the plans for an extension – all Commissioners in favour. BS to talk to John Varcoe and ask for a site meeting to discuss outline plans.

**Rock Moorings –** Four trots are now laid and staff hope to mark and re-lay most of the R Trot next week. Once this is done, re-laying the moorings will cease until next year and the usual winter maintenance will begin.

**New Car Park Machines at Rock –** One is up and running just the other machine to install.

**Items for Discussion**

**South Quay Car Park – MM –** It was raised that the car park spaces were a little tight in the car park and that new cars and 4x4’s were getting bigger. HM said that the Commissioners had discussed re-marking the spaces when the car park needed re-surfacing but as this didn’t need doing at present, he didn’t feel this was the right time. Also, HM didn’t think there was enough time to get this sorted before summer. WJ asked if a herringbone system would be better. HM would ask Keith Clems to come in and see how the car park could be re-marked with slightly wider bays and how many spaces this would lose. BF stated that no complaints had been received in writing, so why fix a problem that didn’t exist? He suggested addressing the problem at a later date.

**Natural England (Car Park Proposals) – HM –** Already covered

**Angling – HM –** Already covered but HM read the
Commissioners an email he had received from an aggrieved angler who felt that the ferry had deliberately run over his fishing lines at the end of a day. They were happy with how the HM had dealt with the situation, but decided that the byelaws should be displayed on the website and that an angling permit system should be brought in. HM had refused to correspond further with the gentleman, so BF (as chair) would inform him of the Commissioners decisions via email.

Dog Walkers – Rock HM/WJ – Letters received from Mrs Walker, Mrs Dee and Mr & Mrs Parr were summarised and mostly were complaining about the same things.

1) The price of the Dog Walkers Ticket – this had been a printing error on the web site and had now been changed to the correct price that more people found satisfactory.

2) The fact that the locals did clean up after their dogs and it was the visitors who offended – why not leave the dog walker tickets at the same price and put the car park charges up for everyone.

HM stated that two other two local car parks do not offer dog walkers yearly tickets and that our charges worked out at the grand price of 14 p per day. The extra funds would pay for a dog waste bin and bag dispenser and if these changes provoked a discussion and highlighted the problem, then why not? HM felt that PHC were doing all that they could to reduce the problem.

Commissioners satisfied with the actions that they were taking and the price increase on dog walkers’ tickets.

Cornish Guardian – DM Asked whether PHC should be publicising more of what they do with the Cornish Guardian. HM stated that they get the minutes by email and we often talk to them if something newsworthy is occurring. HM stated that the minutes also go on the web site and a lot of what PHC are doing is on the HM weekly spot on Radio Cornwall.

Date of Next Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.47 hours.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd February 2012 at 7.00 pm in the Padstow Harbour Office.