

MEETING OF THE PADSTOW HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS 04/21

HELD BY ZOOM MEETING, PADSTOW

ON THURSDAY 15th APRIL 2021 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mr J Hewitt, Chairman, Mr D Martin, Mr C Toogood, Mr W Delacour, Mr P Blewett, Mr G Saunders, Mr I Kitto, Mr M England, Mr B Phillips, Harbour Master.

Apologies: Mr P O'Neill

In Attendance: Mrs N Dyer (Assistant Administrator), Mrs P Hicks (Secretary), Mr D Hobson and Mrs A Guard

Election of Chairman: The Harbour Master opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman of the Commissioners for the following 12 months. Commissioner Hewitt was proposed by Commissioner Kitto and seconded by Commissioner Delacour, all Commissioners voted in favour. 04/21/01

Mr Hewitt took the Chair and thanked the Commissioners for their continued support.

The Chairman now asked for nominations for Deputy Chairman, Commissioner England was proposed by Commissioner Delacour and seconded by Commissioner Kitto, all voted in favour 04/21/02

To Take Information and Comments from Any Members of the Public Present: PHC invited Mr Des Hobson and Mrs Augusta Grand to the meeting. Mr Hobson submitted an Environmental Impact Regulations request on behalf of the Trebetherick Residents Association which both Mr Hobson and Mrs Grand are members. Mr Hobson's initial request stated that the dredger is the cause of dune erosion in the Daymer Bay area. PHC has provided Mr Hobson all relevant information, including a link to the survey report which was published on the PHC website, which details that dredging must continue to ensure safe navigable channels within the estuary.

Mr Hobson addressed the Commissioners and asked various questions and explained that the association are concerned with recent sand movement in Daymer Bay. JH informed Mr Hobson that PHC take environmental matters very seriously and the recent survey is for the purpose of investigating our own concerns as well as others with the recent erosion. PHC have invested greatly in the recent survey and have instructed Ecospan at further cost, to conduct additional research to strengthen evidence in the investigation.

Previous surveys conducted in the estuary were also discussed as well as climate change causing a rise in sea levels and increased inclement weather which will have contributed to the sand loss at Daymer. JH summarised that PHC are working towards a solution to understand sediment distribution within the estuary and will promulgate any information when they are in a

position to do so.

JH confirmed further questions of Mr Hobson that the land owner of the dunes are the Duchy of Cornwall and no Commissioner has a direct interest in the dredging other than as the Duty Holder. ME explained he has an interest as a member of the Padstow Lifeboat and that dredging provides safe navigable access to the port in the event of an emergency and for this reason alone, dredging must remain.

BP asked Mr Hobson that any further communications be taken outside of the EIA request with which Mr Hobson agreed.

JH thanked DH and AG for attending the meeting and there being no other business, they departed the Zoom meeting.

Invoices and Payments for the Period Ending 9th April 2021
April 2021

The Commissioners read through the list of payments produced by ND.

Approval of Minutes
03/20

The minutes for March were approved as a true account of the PHC meeting – it was proposed by WD and seconded by DM

Matters Arising from Meeting
03/20

Survey Report – BP informed the Commissioners that the Ecospan survey report has been published on the PHC website with an accompanying statement. Ecospan have now conducted the multi beam survey of the dredged area and the information has been analysed it can be added to our ongoing investigations.

Iron Ore Steps Repair – BP has erected scaffolding on site and the materials have been collected in preparation for an in house repair to start immediately.

Ferry Slipway Repair – JGP revisited the site on the March 30th and were able to see the extent of the damage which has altered the proposed method of repair.

Inner Quay Piles – PHC employees have completed the works to a very high standard. Whilst the inner harbour was tidal the EA were able to replace the anodes on the flood gate during the low water period.

Drying Grid – The licence application is still in consultation stage.

Petrol Pontoon – In Committee.

Borrowing Powers – BP has instructed PHC solicitors Stephens Scown to proceed with application as agreed in our previous meeting. They are preparing information for application submission and a supporting itinerary highlighting each stage of the process.

Christmas Festival – Mrs T Evans replied by email to BP to thank the Commissioners for the agreement in principle to site the Christmas Festival and commented that she is happy to meet other organisations to answer comments and concerns with regard to the festival. BP will wait for the further

easing of restrictions before looking for a suitable location to hold the meeting.

Financial Briefing

The Commissioners were presented with a current debtors and bank situation plus a Profit and Loss account for the month of March 2021.

Correspondence

Mr D England – writes to the Commissioners regarding the recent sale of a commercial speedboat in Padstow, and would like to apply for the licence. He also explains that he and his family now have qualifications to operate the vessel. The Commissioners were unaware of any recent sales of a commercial speedboat and currently all 4 high speed tripping licences have been issued. BP to write and inform Mr England. BP raised his concerns regarding Mr England's qualifications and local knowledge of the estuary. BP is unaware Mr England has any previous experience on the estuary and would expect anyone wanting to operate a high speed vessel on the river to obtain sufficient experience before doing so, especially in a commercial capacity.

Mrs Tina Robinson – writes to the Commissioners regarding the installation of a water refill station on PHC property. Mrs Robinson has received grant funding from Cornwall council to site water refill stations around Cornwall. BP had met with Mrs Robinson and SWW to discuss various options for siting a station. A proposed position outside the Tourist Information Centre was the preferred choice. This could also provide options for the TIC to earn a little extra revenue. IK proposed the siting of a water refill station at the site of the TIC building and seconded by WD – all in favour. 04/21/03

Port Administrators Business

Covid 19 – The port is open and the ferry service has begun albeit with Covid safe procedures which reduce the capacity of passengers.

Commissioners Code of Conduct – BP had sent a finalised hard copy of the new document to the Commissioners to sign and return to the Harbour Office.

Mowgli – In Committee.

BT I and BT II – The MCA conducted lightship tests on both vessels. BT I passed and the MCA have provided certification but they are still in need of some calculations. BT II has surprisingly failed, as she is sitting lower in the water, aft and midships. Nick Billing has organised a Heel test on Thursday 22nd April but until then we are unable to operate her.

As the season progresses BP intends to operate 2 ferries throughout the busy season which may see the employment of 3 semi part time, seasonal employees.

Mannin – Works are ongoing and electronics have been ordered and are being fitted. Update from NB to be read in Committee.

Water Taxi – BP has arranged a new licence for Andy Cameron for the operation of the evening ferry service.

South Dock Barrier – A heavy goods vehicle drove into the new barrier installation causing damage. BP has spoken with the owner and will arrange all the necessaries for reimbursement.

PB commented to BP that the davits on the South Dock are working well.

PMSC

QR Codes – BP provided the Commissioners a new QR code sticker which when scanned by a smart phone camera, will direct a person to a new PHC Port Safety section on the website. BP has started placing these around the harbour and at Rock to ensure everyone has access to PHC’s safety information. The safety information now includes a new SUP code of conduct as well as all existing information.

PMSC Monthly Report – BP provided the Commissioners Pete Haddocks monthly health and safety report.

Autumn Rose – On Thursday 8th April the Padstow lifeboat was launched to the rescue of FV Autumn Rose which was aground on Gulland Island after getting snagged in her own fishing gear. PHC’s RHIB Patrol Officer arrived on scene and managed to get a rope onto the vessel and pull her off the island. Padstow Lifeboat towed the vessel back to Padstow. PHC lifted her onto the dock wall for an inspection by the MCA. She is currently receiving repairs to a damaged hull.

Footpath Incident – On Friday 9th April early morning BP received a call from a member of the public watching our Rock webcam that had noticed someone had collapsed on the footpath in the dunes above the dinghy park. BP contacted the Coastguards to send help. When BP arrived on scene the gentleman had been helped back to his vehicle by two members of the public and was trying to start the vehicle. BP managed to convince the man to wait for assistance and after confirming symptoms over the phone with the emergency services it was evident the man was suffering from symptoms which resembled a stroke. The Polzeath coastguard arrived on scene and the air ambulance soon after and the casualty was taken to hospital.

Stuck in the mud – RHIB Patrol Officer Leon Burt notified BP that a member of the public was stuck in the mud at Porthilly around lunchtime on Friday 9th April. BP immediately contacted the MCA and also contacted CT for assistance with the use of his vehicle. CT met PHC employee Paul Hancock on scene and were able to dig the casualty out using a pair of paddles. BP said that he would like to enquire into purchasing some mud rescue equipment to store at the dinghy park beach hut so it is readily available for these more frequent incidents, as the nearest mud rescue teams are at Falmouth and Bude. The Commissioners discussed training courses and the possibility of a donation towards local services being trained. DM asked BP how many pairs of the “mudders” mud walking shoes PHC own as it would be beneficial for one pair to be kept on the Rhib. BP will leave one of the two pairs at the dinghy park shed.

Rhib Patrol Summary 2020 – LB has provided his annual statement for the Commissioners which BP will forward on via email to each Commissioner.

Any Other Business

DM – Thought that BP should ask Mr Hobson to provide PHC the Lidar reports mentioned at the beginning of the meeting so that they may be forwarded on to Ecospan for inclusion in the survey investigations.

WD – Informed the Commissioners that there was lots of mud on the new pontoon at Wadebridge. BP said that he had had received complaints about youths misbehaving and smearing mud on signs and the pontoon. The police have been informed and will use CCTV footage if they need to.

PB – Asked if there were any updates on the Beach Huts idea at Rock. BP has made a few enquiries but nothing substantial to report.

CT – Asked if there was space where kayaks can be stored at the Dinghy park. BP to speak with the beachmaster and consider constructing a racking system.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th May 2021 at 19:00hrs in the Long Room, Padstow,

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21:00 hrs.