

MEETING OF THE PADSTOW HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS 09/16

HELD AT THE PADSTOW HARBOUR OFFICE

ON THURSDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.00PM

Present: Mr D Martin, Mr M England, Mr W Chown, Mr C Toogood, Mr G Saunders, Capt R Atkinson, Mr B Murt, Mr W Jago, Mr M Stacey

Apologies: Mr S Summers

NOTE: **As Chair and Deputy Chair were not present at start of meeting, Mr G Saunders was elected as a temporary chairman.**

In Attendance: Mrs N Dyer (Assistant Administrator) Mrs P Hicks (secretary), Mr D Lockwood, Mr P O'Neill, Mr A Hoskin

To Take Information and Comments from Any Members of the Public None at this meeting

Present:

Invoices and Payments for the period ending 12th September 2016 From 12th August to 12th September 2016 the amount of £120,872.11

WJ declared an interest

BM asked about the payment to JB Marine for transport of a grab - HM said that the costs would be invoiced to Bristol Port as part of the dredging contract.

Mr D Martin arrived and resumed the 'chair' of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes 08/16 The minutes were approved by WC and seconded by MS with the one change of spelling for 'Irons' Brothers.

Matters Arising from Meeting 08/16

Approval of Minutes - changes had been made as requested

Mr A Allen - HM had emailed to say that the speed limits were already under consideration.

Mr K Duxbury – Former harbour commissioner who had passed away - a donation had been made in lieu of flowers.

Mannin - Had sailed to Fowey for Dry Dock & 5 yearly load line certificate renewal.

Financial Briefing

Mrs N Dyer had prepared a financial report for the Commissioners.

Harbour Dues were on target for August, but for the 8 months to the end of August were down by 2.5%.

Dredger Contracts - the favourable variance relates to the Teignmouth Dredge Contract.

Harbour Maintenance - the adverse variance is due to the maintenance work on the Mowgli to strengthen the deck and support the new winch and bow roller which was fitted by Padstow boatyard.

Ferry - Income for August was up by 6%, and for the 8 months to the end of August the income is up by 1.7% compared to the same period last year.

Car parks - Income for August is down by 2.8%, and for the 8 months to the end of August the income is down by 2.3%, this is attributed to the loss of 8 spaces in the Padstow South Quay car park as the Rock car park was on target.

WJ asked if we still need the coin machines in the car parks – perhaps a more modern solution was available. HM said that he and Mrs Dyer had already been looking at alternatives, but it was likely that there would always need to be a mix between coin machines and the availability to pay ‘electronically’. PTC had used park machines that took credit cards but these had proved to be unreliable. HM said that a system that could be used to pay for car parking via a mobile phone was probably the best alternative. CT asked how mobile reception could cause a problem as there are problems with reception in some areas. HM said that PHC would look into all of this during the winter months and come back with a proposal.

DM commented that the bank balance was looking healthy but that the corporation tax was due at the end of the month.

Correspondence

Ms E Winter - HM had received an email from Ms Winter raising concerns over the speed limits in the estuary.

Mr P Tamblin - had written to the Commissioners regarding the Padstow to Rock Swim, it had been a success and he would like to thank the PHC staff and Commissioners. So far £68,241 had been raised but this was not the final total. The date for the 2017 swim was 6th August on the late afternoon tide.

Mr N Chapman - writes to ask about running the Jubilee Queen up to Christmas and evening cruises down the estuary. HM had

written to Mr Chapman confirming that the licence allowed him to run evening cruises but stating that PHC needed a risk assessment for these trips and some assurances that the noise levels and lighting on board would not cause a nuisance to other river users.

Mrs S Hammett, Pickwick - a menu had been sent with regards to the Commissioners annual function - they were able to do music/disco and had rooms for the few who like to stay overnight. The Commissioners discussed the venue and decided the following:

The Commissioners are happy with the venue.

The date to be 14th January 2017

Menu needs tinkering

To be confirmed at next meeting.

Mr A Cameron, Wavehunters - writes to ask if they can run a second RHIB for the 2017 season for their sea safari trips. HM informed the Commissioners that Wavehunters already pick up from both Rock and Padstow. Provided they fit in around the existing users and have an overnight berth outside the harbour HM could not see a problem with this. The Commissioners do not seek to restrict the number of boats as there is an 'open port' duty, however they would have to work around the other commercial operators using the pontoon and reach an agreement to pick up off the Rock Pontoon. GS asked where he mostly picks up from, HM replied that it is mostly from Rock, however some trips involve passengers embarked from both sides. The Commissioners agreed as long as Wavehunters satisfy the conditions agreed – to be laid out by HM in a letter.

Mrs C Morgan - writes to ask if she can have permission for a refreshment hut at Rock, the Commissioners have refused in the past and it was no different this time - HM to write and say unfortunately, it is a "No" at this time.

Port Administrators Business

Schedule of Rates - This is normally covered in the October meeting but because of the early invoicing of Rock moorings, a decision of any changes to these and the river dues would be needed at this meeting.

Rock Moorings - increased by 2%
proposed by BM and seconded by WC
River Dues - increased by 1%
proposed by HM and seconded by GS
Both proposals carried unanimously.

Jubilee Queen - already covered

Mrs Tina Evans, PATA – In order to formally state PHC's terms and conditions for the Christmas festival, HM had put together a Licence in conjunction with Mr P Haddock (safety advisor). This licence basically stated the Commissioners terms which had been discussed previously and Nick Hall (solicitor) had also checked it over. No reply to date.

Rock Marine Services – tenants of the activity centre at Rock and would like to install a door between the booking office and the sailing school – this would allow both spaces to be looked after by one staff member. The Commissioners agreed as long as this does not affect the insurance PHC have in place, also that they agree to replace "as was" if they leave the building. PHC to get contractors to fit the door and pass on the cost to Rock Marine services.

CCTV - HM said that the current system had some problems and was getting 'dated' – seeking the Commissioner's opinion on upgrading.

HM said that you rarely got to see all you would like with any cctv system but he wondered if using fixed HD cameras which allowed the user to zoom in on any area of the recorded picture might be a better way forward than all PTZ (pan tilt zoom) cameras. It should be understood that a new system may also draw blanks, however it should be better and provide upgraded coverage. Generally, the Commissioners felt that it was time to upgrade the whole system and CT said that he had a local contact and would pass the name onto the HM. HM instructed to get quotes from the local provider and our current provider for a new CCTV system.

GS asked about Wadebridge - HM said that it is not on the system at the moment as broadband would need to be installed – it could be done, but at a price.

Harbour Dry Down - the date for the inner harbour dry down would be 14th November 2016 for three days. EA will come in and service the gate whilst PHC can look at the walls, ladders and piles on the Shipwrights wall. HM was looking to replace the wooden pile cappings with plastic as the relatively new wood was heavily eaten by worm.

UKHMA - the next meeting would be in London on 22/23 November and would any of the Commissioners like to attend. CT, MS, WC and GS were interested in attending. As only two extra people can attend CT/MS to go to the London meeting and WC/GS to go to the one in April next year in Edinburgh.

Mr M England arrived at meeting.

PMSC

RHIB Patrol Summary:

22 people stopped for speeding:
4 in Padstow Harbour and Channel
1 through the Rock moorings
17 through the Pool moorings

17 Swimmers (and one sofa) had been picked up or escorted back to shore from mid channel. Most of these were from St Saviours and Gun Point but a few off the Doom Bar and Town Bar.

The RHIB Patrol Officer had a couple of run ins with kite surfers sailing outside "prohibited" hours. They would not give names or addresses but said that the signage at Daymer Bay was missing. HM asked if anyone was able to check it if they were passing - it was last year that HM checked and it was there then.

Incident 25th August 2016

A child was climbing on the railings outside the Harbour Office and he fell into the water from between the top and middle rail. The RHIB Patrol just happened to be there, so picked him up and dropped him on the pontoon with no injuries. He was with his parents but just slipped and fell into the water.

GS asked if signage was needed. HM said that the railings had been installed to prevent people falling over the edge but felt that PHC couldn't realistically put signs up to cover every eventuality – members of public had to accept some responsibility for their own safety. Many children were allowed to climb outside the railings by their parents and on the times harbour staff had warned about this, many had declined the advice given. The harbour car park and piers had signs warning about the dangers in working harbours which urged care to be taken and HM felt there was little more that PHC could do to prevent such an accident happening again. Agreed to leave 'as is' for the present.

Incident 4th September 2016

A RHIB with 2 persons on board had capsized off Tregirls/Gun Point. The RHIB Patrol got a call from Wavehunters but once on scene realised he couldn't access the casualty so called Rock RNLI. One occupant with bruising / cut to head and other mildly hypothermic. Rock Lifeboat took the two occupants back to shore where they received minor medical attention and advice. PHC RHIB towed their vessel back towards rock moorings before the lifeboat also recovered this.

HM had investigated the incident but there was little that could be done to prevent recurrence – the area was not 'off limits' and the occupants had been unwise to play in the shallow water surf

conditions. It appeared that there had been some confused communications between NCI Stepper Point and Falmouth CG however these issues had been discussed and resolved.

Mud Rescues - there had been quite a few incidents on the banks of the River Camel this year and PHC don't tend to hear about them until they are in the local paper. The Coastguard often isn't involved as the local fire crew attends however HM questioned the level of training and equipment available in this specialist area.

HM has previously talked to the local CG sector officer and discussed the need for a 'mud rescue' trained team locally; however this idea had been dismissed as HMCG felt they could fly in a team from Falmouth by helicopter.

With the incidents in the Camel appearing to be more frequent lately, the local CG team are going to highlight this issue again with their sector officer.

Pot Markers – HM had highlighted the issue of inadequate pot markers and poorly rigged fishing equipment at a recent South West Ports (SWRPA) meeting and discovered many harbours had similar issues. As a result, the chairman of SWRPA had sent a letter to the MCA Navigational Safety Branch and they had invited a member to sit on the Navigation Safety Committee and raise this issue.

HM had been away on leave at the time volunteers were asked for, so the Deputy Harbourmaster at Falmouth is fighting our cause and raising concerns on behalf of south west ports as a whole. HM said that he still wasn't sure what could be done about this but at least the issue was being highlighted to the MCA.

Items for Discussion

BM - Weekly Car Park Tickets - he had been asked to bring up concerns that if a car pays for a weekly ticket it's a loss of revenue for the space and more money could be made if the weeklies were removed from PHC's tariff.

HM said that it was very difficult to prove this. For instance this wasn't the case if a weekly ticket holder paid and then went out in their car for the day, as many do – the vacant space would then be rented out again during the day whilst still being occupied for overnight parking! The weekly ticket did not mean that we reserved a space for the individual.

It was noted that the town council had done away with weekly tickets.

After general discussion it was felt that this was a service that had been offered by PHC for many years and that it would continue unchanged for the immediate future.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20th October 2016 at 7.00 pm in the Padstow Harbour Office.

There being no further business the Meeting went into "In Committee" at 21.00hrs