

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON

4TH DECEMBER 2013

CHAIRMAN: R Croshaw

PRESENT: R Bessey, Councillor P Burgess, Councillor Penny Channer, C Edwards, R Hawkins, Councillor B Hazlewood, J James, D Lewin, I Lewis, P Pope, D F Potter, D Record, M Sharp, A Shearring, C Tyas, K Wickham

APOLOGIES: Susan Harrison, Capt C McQueen, Capt J Parkes, C Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: R Noble Treasurer, M Wakelin Chief Executive,

24 **MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10th JULY 2013**

It was proposed by Mr Edwards and seconded by Mr Wickham that the Minutes of the Advisory Committee be signed as a true record. **AGREED.**

24.3 There were no matters arising from the Minutes

25 **MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON THE 4TH SEPTEMBER 2013**

25.1 There were no matters arising from the Minutes

26 *Application for Mooring of M V Ross Revenge (Former Radio Caroline)*

The Chief Executive reported that Mr Barke from Essex Marina had written to the Authority formally confirming their wish to moor the Ross Revenge at Paglesham raising some points which had been discussed at the last Authority meeting. The Chief Executive said he had written back to him pointing out that at this stage the Authority were not saying no but there were significant questions to be resolved first.

The Chief Executive said that a reply was still awaited from them.

One question that had arisen from discussions was the fact that there would be a night watchmen aboard, which would raise the question of whether it would be classed as a houseboat. Essex Marina had also spoken about dredging the bed to achieve access but the Chief Executive said this would need consent from the CHA, the MMO and English Nature.

After discussion the Chairman said that it was clear from the meeting that members felt it would not be desirable to have the Ross Revenge moored at Paglesham.

NOTED

27

Hayes Farm

The Chief Executive said he was indebted to Idris Lewis who had done a lot of work at Hayes Farm to try and get some organization with regard to the proposals for the jetties.

Concern had been expressed with regard to Mr Lowther's pontoon which had been built differently from the planning consent drawings and the fact that he had not got a retrospective Works Licence from the Authority. The Chief Executive reported that Mr Lowther had carried out a series of modifications and improvements such that the Chief Executive was content that what had been done was acceptable. At the last Authority meeting it was agreed that Mr Lowther should obtain a structural engineers report. Mr Lewis confirmed that Mr Lowther had tried various Engineering Companies to get a structural survey but had not found anybody to do that type of survey. A risk assessment has been carried out and the Chief Executive said he was inclined to let matters rest in relation to Mr Lowthers pontoon.

Regarding the other pontoons on site, a basic outline has been agreed so that any structures built in the future will all be built to the same specification. With regard to the other large pontoon the owner was getting retrospective planning consent for modifications undertaken and with regard to the other large pontoon the Chief Executive said that he was happy the owner was seeking retrospective planning consent and confirmed that the structure was safe and did not obstruct the fairway.

The Chief Executive reported that the residents at Hayes Farm had used their own labour to clean up the site and get rid of the old rubbish etc so for the time being matters were under control.

Mr Lewis confirmed that there were 13 structures which had been there already but were now much neater.

NOTED

28

Wallasea Wild Coast Project Progress Update

The Chief Executive reported that the tonnage collected to the end of October was approximately one million tonne. He pointed out that the best month was in August but since then the revenue had dropped away. He said that there had been problems getting the material down the conveyors. There have been other operational issues resulting in various changes and the Contractor has appointed a new Agent.

Mr Tyas confirmed that 500 tonne of material had been trialed from Instone Wharf using a small hopper barge. Currently approximately 30 tonne per week is being mixed with material from Northfleet and Barking. He said that he was satisfied Cell 1 was moving along satisfactorily and although the original plan was for 4.5 million tonne from Crossrail it could be less but all things considered they were on track to breach in 2016.

The Chief Executive reported that there had been a few problems with the starboard engine on the Pilot Boat Alarm and until replacement parts had been obtained for the time being Watchful was being used.

NOTED

29

Pilots Pension Fund Contribution to Rescue Fund

The Chief Executive gave members a brief update. A letter has been sent to the Trustees stating that the Authority is willing to bear the share of costs in respect of its employed Pilots but not in regard to the self employed ones. A reply is still awaited.

The Chief Executive said the debt outstanding kept getting revalued and even if the Pilot who was drawing on the pension died this did not end the involvement with the scheme.

After discussion the Treasurer said it was his recommendation that the Authority should establish whether or not it was liable for the self employed Pilots and once that had been established the Authority should investigate Section 75 of the buy out scheme.

30 *Proposal to Install Navigation Buoys, River Roach*

The Chief Executive confirmed that he had purchased the buoys and would now need to get consent from Trinity House to install the buoys.

With regard to the signs for the signage buoys he said he had been let down by the supplier but that he hoped to get them in position for next season in time for Easter.

NOTED

31 *Crouch/Roach Congestion*

Following on from the recent incident on the river with regard to the Topper race and the congestion in the river during which there were a number of RIBS which had been ramming other vessels. Mr Lewis said that as Chairman of CAYF he had undertaken to set up a meeting on the 4th September with the intention of setting up a protocol to avoid such incidents in future. He said that the meeting had been represented by the majority of Clubs outside Burnham but no-one had attended from any of the Clubs in Burnham. He said it was unfortunate that Edwin Buckley had been unwell at the time.

Mr Potter said that the meeting may have produced better results if it had been done under the aegis of the Authority. After discussion it was proposed by Mr Potter and seconded by Mr Pope that the Chief Executive should speak to the JCC to set up a meeting between them and CAYF. The Chief Executive said he was also happy to put a page on the Authority's website with regard to forthcoming race events.

NOTED

32 *Marine Conservation Zones*

Councillor Mrs Channer declared an interest.

The Chief Executive reported that the Government had just announced in the past week that the Rivers Crouch, Roach and Blackwater had been designated as one of the 27 Marine Conservation Zones and it was not known in real terms how this would affect the Authority.

Mr Sharp gave a brief update and said that he had attended a meeting two weeks ago where it was agreed to set up some working groups to work with the Fisheries Officer and he advised that the CHA should become involved in this. He said he would keep the Committee informed.

NOTED

33 *Five Year Dredging Licence Application from Fambridge Yacht Haven Limited – 5,000 cu. m. Current Licence Expires 1st January 2014*

The application was displayed on the noticeboard.

Members considered Fambridge Yacht Haven's application for a five year Dredging Licence. It was pointed out that earlier in the year someone had applied for a two year licence and it had been turned down.

After discussion it was RECOMMENDED that under the MMO's new regime to issue Yacht Havens a one year Dredging Licence until it was clear exactly what the MMO's requirements were.

34 Any Other Business:

34.1 *Works Licence Application from Burnham Sailing Club to Replace Pontoon*

The application was displayed on the noticeboard.

The Chief Executive reported that Burnham Sailing Club had applied for a Works Licence to replace their existing defective pontoon. He pointed out that the plan did not show whether the intended structure was bigger than the existing one.

It was proposed by Mr Bessey and seconded by Mr Sharp to RECOMMEND to the Authority to issue a Works Licence provided that the structure was no bigger than the existing pontoon.

34.2 *Houseboats*

Mr Lewin declared an interest.

Mr Lewin said he had been asked by the West Quay Housing Association, to make sure the Chief Executive and the Committee were clear on how the houseboats on West Quay were constituted.

He gave a brief report of the outgoings which each houseboat paid, including rent to Maldon District Council, third party insurance and Council Tax. He pointed out that the houseboats in effect sat on their own mud and did not navigate.

Mr Lewin said he did not wish to take the matter any further but was just a matter of ensuring members were aware of the situation.

NOTED

34.3 *Eyott Sailing Club*

Mr Lewis declared an interest.

Mr Lewis reported that Mr Brunning the Vice Commodore of Eyott Sailing Club was seeking approval from the Authority to consider making a contribution for development at ESC. Following a number of burglaries the Club are seeking to buy a large container to store their equipment at an approximate cost of £4,000.

The Treasurer said it had been discussed at the last Finance and Estates Committee what projects could be supported on the river and the intention to form a Working Group to consider such applications from Yacht Clubs to look at what funding can be given.

He went on to say that the Authority were now looking to fund a new Pilot Boat and had to deal with the issue of the Pilot Pension Scheme but should be looking to invest the money to ensure the long term future.

The Chief Executive said that the Committee should look favorably at this application should any funds be available.

NOTED

- 34.4 Mr Sharp reported that he had mentioned previously the review of the Fishing Byelaws which had been delayed because of the Marine Conservation Zones.

He said this would have an impact on the river at some stage. Training workshops will be set up in February and they will start the process in March.

NOTED

- 34.5 Mr Pope reported that there had been a series of break-ins last month at the Ski Club and SWFYC whereby equipment had been stolen.

NOTED

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.