

**THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY**

**MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**8 JANUARY 2014**

**CHAIRMAN:** E Buckley

**PRESENT:** D Adams, J Archer, D Border, R Croshaw, S Hollington, J James, R Lingard, I Lewis, Councillor C Seagers

**APOLOGIES:** Susan Harrison,

**IN ATTENDANCE:** R Noble Hon Treasurer, M Wakelin Chief Exec

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** K Wickham,

**PART I (GOLD)**

(Matters of a non-confidential nature taken with the public and press present).

1 *New Members*

The Chairman welcomed Mr Adams, Manager of Fambridge Yacht Haven onto the Authority.

NOTED

2 *Chairman's Announcements*

The Chairman reported on the recent flood damage at the harbour office and thanked the staff for their assistance in getting the office back to normal without too much delay.

Mr James said that he had been in dialogue with the Essex County Council and the Environment Agency to see what steps could be taken in order to try and avoid future recurrence.

3 **MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 4TH SEPTEMBER, 2013**

Part 1 was approved as a correct record.

4 There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

5 *Mooring of M V Ross Revenge (Former Radio Caroline)*

The Chief Exec reported that just before Christmas he had written to James Barke at Essex Marina notifying him of the Authority's decision not to allow the Ross Revenge to be brought into the Harbour. A letter of regret was received from Mr Barke but a willingness to accept the decision.

NOTED

6 *Hayes Farm*

Mr Lewis gave a detailed report of the structures at Hayes Farm and the measures that had been taken with regard to the necessary consents. He said out that there would be eight standard pontoons, which would be built to the same specification in line with the Chief Exec's suggestions. He summarized by saying that there would be a total of 13 structures.

Mr Lewis then went on to say that Mr Lowther had had informal discussions with the Planning Enforcement Officer concerning his pontoon who recommended a pre-planning application this has been done and submitted on the 5<sup>th</sup> January. Mr Lowther had been unable to obtain a Structural Engineers Report but a risk assessment had been carried out. At the last Authority meeting members had expressed concern with regard to the safety of the structure and Mr Lingard suggested that Mr Lowther should contact Richard Jackson who was a reputable Structural Engineering Company. Mr Lewis agreed to pass this information onto to Mr Lowther.

Members then went on to debate whether or not the Authority were supportive of the pontoons/jetties being built at Hayes Farm. Concern was expressed that once the structures was established this would set a precedent. Mr Lewis pointed out that one of the problems was that over the last few years the owners had been advertising the sale of lodges at the Caravan Site on the basis of having a free mooring. Mr Lewis promised to let the Chief Exec have a copy of the advert and the Chief Exec would then write to Hayes Farm expressing the Authority's concerns.

It was also AGREED that the Authority should wait and see the outcome of the Council's decision with regard to the planning applications of the structures but in the meantime Members were happy that things were moving in the right direction with regard to compliance. Mr Lewis said he would report back at the next meeting concerning the pre planning applications.

7 *Wallasea Wild Coast Project – Progress Report*

The Chief Exec gave a brief update concerning the ships and the present financial situation with regards to non payment of monies still outstanding for October and the first part of November. He went on to say that the Authority had been in regular contact with Mr Philips from Crossrail but it may be that the Authority may have to think what steps were available to recover the monies and seek advice.

After discussion the Chairman said a lot of time had been spent going through the pros and cons of what to do but suggested this should be left with the Chairman to sort with the Chief Exec.

8 *Pilots National Pension Fund*

The Chairman reported that the issues regarding the pension fund were being dealt with. He said the Authority would need to take professional advice and then a decision would have to be made what to do next. At the moment the Authority were waiting to hear back from Tozers.

Members were in favour of seeking professional advice and agreed to set a limit of up to £10,000.

9 *Health and Safety*

There were no incidents to report.

NOTED

10 **MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2014**

11 *Essex Rivers Marine Conservation Zone Designation*

The Chief Exec reported that a couple of months ago the Essex Rivers had been designated as one of the 27 Marine Conservation Zones. It is not known at the moment what the effects will be but will be a question of waiting to see when the information comes in.

NOTED

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

Mr Adams declared an interest and left the office whilst the item was being discussed.

The Chief Exec reported that Fambridge Yacht Haven have applied for a 5 year dredging licence to pump material onto the saltings.

This was considered by the Advisory Committee who recommended a one year Licence.

FYH have written to the MMO to seek a licence for this work and have applied for a 3 year licence and would like the Authority to grant a Licence for the same period.

Mr Hollington pointed out that from a personal point of view as a landowner opposite FYH he had spoken to FYH and they have agreed to pump some of the material onto his saltings.

It was AGREED that the granting of a 3 year licence should be determined by the MMO's recommendations.

The Chief Exec went on to say that he had received an application from Burnham Yacht Harbour seeking approval for a 5 year Licence. The current Licence is due to expire at the end of November 2014. The Chief Exec pointed out that there was some reason for concern with regard to the amount of mud building up on the shore, which was especially marked at Burnham. He said that it was unknown whether it was down to dredging but for that reason he was less keen to get locked into a longer licensing period. It was agreed that for the time being the Licence should be granted on an annual basis. Should the Marina apply to the MMO and agreement given for a longer period then the Authority would be happy to follow their recommendations.

Mr Adams rejoined the meeting.

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

The Chief Exec reported that a Works Licence application had been received from the Club to replace their existing pontoon. He said this was a straightforward replacement pontoon. He said the Club had applied to get funding from outside bodies and should they approach the Authority it should look at the request favourably. It was AGREED to issue the Works Licence and wait to see if the Authority were approached with regard to possible funding.

14 *Eyott Sailing Club Storage Container*

Mr Lewis pointed out that this request had been submitted on behalf of the Commodore of the Eyott Sailing Club.

ESC have sent in a request seeking financial assistance from the Authority to provide a container to store the Club's equipment within their grounds. The cost of the container would be £3,790 plus VAT. It was suggested that the Club should approach Sport England and the South Woodham Ferrers Town Council to make a contribution. Members debated on how much the Authority could contribute possibly on a match funding basis. Whilst it was felt that the Authority should support the proposal it was agreed that a Working Group should be set up on how to manage the funds to make it fair for everyone.

After further discussion the Chairman said the matter should be discussed under Item 22 on the Agenda.

15 *Marine Police*

The Chief Exec reported on proposals to close the Marine Unit in Burnham. He said that he had written to the Essex Police some time ago confirming that the Authority would be happy to assist in any way it could. In particular the Authority were looking for a replacement pilot vessel and would be interested in purchasing the Police Launch Alert IV for that purpose. Discussions have taken place and the Police have expressed an interest in the proposals and the outcome is awaited.

NOTED

16 *Support for Local Coastguards*

Members considered the proposal drawn up by Mr Lewis concerning support for the local Coastguards. He pointed out that the CHA area of responsibility was met by two Coastguard teams of which one was based at Southend and the other at South Woodham Ferrers. Despite there being a lot of equipment at SWF there was no money for training and the group were understaffed. He went on to say that the proposal was for the Authority to consider supporting the SWF team by way of funding.

After discussion it was AGREED not to proceed. The Chairman said that maybe once the "above referred to working group" had been set up and it was known what monies were involved they could apply for funding.

17 Any other Business:

17.1 Mr Lewis asked for an update with regard to the river congestion issue. The Chief Exec confirmed that he hoped to attend the next JCC meeting.

NOTED

- 17.2 Mr Hollington asked for a brief update with regard to the shellfish situation. The Chief Exec said that a new lease had been prepared for Purleigh Shawl to lease the area from Blackpoint to Brandy Hole but the lease could not be executed as the individuals could not reach an agreement between themselves of what they wanted. It is now proposed that the whole area from Black Point to Brandy Hole should be split up between Russell Pitt and Shane Francis.

The Chief Exec confirmed that a meeting had been arranged next week with Mr Pitt and Mr Francis to discuss the options.

- 17.3 *Meeting Dates for 2014*

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May  
“ 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
“ 7<sup>th</sup> January 2015

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.15