

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON

9TH JULY 2014

CHAIRMAN: I Lewis

PRESENT: Councillor P Burgess, C Edwards, R Hawkins, Councillor B Hazlewood, D F Potter, A Shearring, K Wickham, P Woodford

APOLOGIES: R Bessey, Councillor Penny Channer, R Croshaw Susan Harrison, J James, D Lewin, R Noble, Capt J Parkes, P Pope, Cllr N Pudney, D Record, M Sharp, C Tyas, C Williams, C Wright

IN ATTENDANCE: M Wakelin Chief Executive

9 MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9th APRIL 2014

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

9.1 Matters Arising from meeting of Advisory Committee 9th April 2014

9.2 *Hayes Farm*

A meeting was held with Chelmsford City Council who confirmed that agreement on a Habitat Assessment with Natural England was the only obstacle to obtaining planning permission. Whilst Chelmsford City Council need the Habitat Assessment to cover only the points raised in their letter of 5th February, Natural England have requested further details for which the Club has to get a further quotation. Hayes Farm Leisure Boat Club await direction from Chelmsford City Council on a suitable consultant.

10 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the meeting of the Authority 8th January 2014 as raised in the Advisory meeting 9th April 2014

10.1 The Speed Limit Questionnaire has been analyzed and the results are under review.

NOTED

Minutes of the Advisory Committee Meeting 9th July 2014

10.2 *Buoy at Bridgemarsh Island*

A buoy (one of the large old spherical steel yellow mooring buoys) has been installed in the gap in the seawall of Bridgemarsh Island (in the creek where boats frequently anchor) with a sign "Private Water No Entry"

NOTED

10.3 The "clam boat" at Brandy Hole could not be identified however the Mooring Holders Association will keep the operations under review.

NOTED

11 **MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH MAY 2014**

12 **Matters Arising Not Covered in the Main Agenda**

Subsequent to the meeting as required by the Port Marine Safety Code (PMSC) Mr Robarts has been employed by CHA as a 'Designated Person'. He will not form part of the structure of CHA but report to the CHA. His task is to review all the shortcomings identified in the Audit conducted by Marico Marine and recommend actions. Mr Robarts is a Harwich Pilot.

NOTED

13 *2015 Harbour Fees*

A draft proposal was presented where basic fees increase by 4.85% - 5.63%. Fees for prompt payment remain unchanged from 2014 which also remained unchanged from 2013.

Short Visit / Waterski / PWC fees remain unchanged.

In response to a question it was confirmed that Mooring Licenses each for a set number of moorings are issued for £30 covering a 3 year period. The number of moorings actually used is not reported so the CHA does not have an accurate record of the number of boats on the river that should pay Harbour Dues.

The CHA issues 2,000+ plaques each year and follow up those not displaying a plaque after the end of the prompt payment period. Non payment can only be enforced as a civil charge with a fine 3x the unpaid fee so court proceedings are uneconomic.

It was RECOMMENDED to the Authority to agree the revised scale of fees.

14 *Wallasea Wild Coast Project Progress Report*

The ship movement and material handling is going well with 2.2 million delivered to date from the 4.0 million tonnes envisaged. However there is a likely shortfall of material and press reports indicate that Cell 1 is being redesigned for a reduced tonnage of material. The RSPB have requested an extension on the lease to 2025.

A serious issue is that there is no firm plan in place for additional material to complete CELLS 2, 3 and affect to CELLS 4 and 5. The intent was material from the Thames Tideway Tunnel and Sizewell C however this is not certain.

The Thames Tideway plan would require material to be brought down the Thames by barge prior to being trans-shipped at Tilbury to vessels able to come round into the Crouch. This is an expensive process. The CHA intent is that tonnage charges stay unchanged which may become too costly in the tenders now under study.

The implications of non-completion are not known but could include uncontrolled breaching of the sea wall and serious silting up of the River mouth.

It is not known if the Remedial Agreement i.e. a budget to resolve concerns would remain applicable if the Project is not completed as originally planned.

The Environment Agency have declined to support flood defence at Wallasea, preferring managed retreat regardless of the potential long term implications. The estimated life of the various parts of the existing seawalls is not documented. Planned breaching of the seawall at any stage will require a Works Licence and will come before the Advisory Committee.

It was RECOMMENDED that the CHA be requested to write to RSPB seeking clarification on the open issues and the long term plan.

15 *Pilots National Pension Fund*

The issue is at a delicate and confidential stage and it was agreed to not discuss the status.

NOTED

16 *Marine Navigation Act 2013: Port User Group*

The CHA is unusual in having an Advisory Committee included in its Act of Parliament. The make-up of the Advisory Committee is not a good starting point for a Port User Group as many members need not be on the PUG yet others required on the PUG such as Commercial fishermen are not represented on the Advisory.

The CHA is writing to all the parties required in the PUG requesting representation.

The Advisory Committee will not be a direct part of the PUG process.

NOTED

17 *Dredging Licence Application from Priors Boatyard to Dredge 600 cu. m of Silt*

A one year licence to dredge 600 cu m was RECOMMENDED.

In response to a question it was accepted that there is no reliable method of measuring the volume of material dredged nor the distribution of disturbed material temporarily suspended in the water.

- 18 *Dredging Licence Application from Burnham Yacht Harbour Marina to Dredge 20,000 cu.m of Silt*

In line with current CHA policy only it was RECOMMENDED to issue a 1 year licence. CHA was requested to advise Burnham Yacht Harbour of this and remind them that the volume involved requires a Marine Licence.

- 19 *Planning Application for Private Mooring Pontoon, Tideways, Creeksea*

The meeting was reminded that a previous application for a pontoon at Tideways was rejected and minuted in the 10th July 2013 Advisory Committee meeting, having previously been discussed and rejected at the May Authority meeting.

The applicant has now applied for planning permission from Maldon District Council. The Chief Executive wrote a letter of objection dated 9th June 2014. The grounds for objection i.e. interference with navigation of boat working close inshore against a tide were compared to the equivalent situation on Burnham waterfront and the alternative of rebuilding the existing jetty as has been agreed for 'The White House' at Creeksea.

If planning permission is granted the issue of a works licence will need to be considered again by the Advisory Committee

NOTED

- 20 Any Other Business:

- 20.1 A 'Beating of the Bounds' is not planned for 2014.

NOTED

- 20.2 Further buoys for the Roach were delivered 9th July 2014 and are to be installed shortly. Mr Wickham to be involved in the laying of the buoys.

NOTED

- 20.3 Of the twenty-six listed members of the Advisory Committee, this meeting was attended by only nine. There were some apologies and some no shows.

Proposals were invited as to how to increase participation. It was suggested that June was a better month than July. Moving from Wednesday night as previously requested is difficult for some members who were present.

It was RECOMMENDED that the Constituent Bodies of those not in regular attendance to be approached by CHA to request improved participation.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.