

# THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

## MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING

HELD ON

3 SEPTEMBER 2014

**CHAIRMAN:** E Buckley

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

**APOLOGIES:** R Lingard

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Susan Harrison Harbour Master, R Noble Hon Treasurer, M Robarts, PMSC Officer, M Wakelin Chief Executive

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** Councillor P Burgess, Councillor Mrs B Owers

### **PART I (GOLD)**

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

#### 37 *Port Marine Safety Code Update*

The Chairman introduced Michael Robarts who then went on to give a brief profile of his background experience. Mr Robarts went on to say that he had been appointed by the Chief Executive and the Harbour Master on a consulting basis as the Designated Person for the Authority in compliance with the Port Marine Safety Code. Mr Robarts said they had discussed the recent audit carried out by Marico Marine, together with the report and feedback provided. Whilst the PMSC is not mandatory in order to promote safety it was necessary to provide evidence that the Authority were complying with the Code.

Mr Robarts said that a full appraisal of all the harbour activities and what the Authority does was being looked at. The most important part of the Code are the Risk Assessments and these are currently being reviewed. He said that the Authority needed to establish a relationship with the stakeholders and have a basic reporting procedure in the interest of safety. He then went on to report on the action plan as a way of going forward.

It is hoped that the Port Marine Safety Code will be fully up and running by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

He concluded by saying that he would be happy to answer any questions.

NOTED

38 *Chairman's Announcements*

There were no announcements.

NOTED

39 **MINUTES OF THE AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 7TH MAY, 2014**

Part 1 was approved as a correct record.

40 There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

41 **MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2014**

42 *Harbour Charges 2015*

The Chief Executive reported that at the beginning of 2014 the basic rate of full annual Harbour Dues was increased by approximately 4.5%-5.3% over 2013 but maintained the Prompt Payment Rate with no increase over 2013, the aim being to reward prompt payers and to increase the effective penalty for late payment.

It is proposed to do the same again for 2015 – increase the basic Annual Harbour Dues rate by approximately 5% (rounded to nearest £0.50) but keep the Prompt Payment Rate unchanged for the second year running, so again increasing the discount for prompt payment.

Size	2014 PPR	2014 FHD	2015 PPR	2015 FHD	%
	£	£	£	£	
8.00-15.5	21.00	29.50	21.00	31.00	5.8
15.51-21.5	29.50	41.00	29.50	43.00	4.87
21.51-26.5	36.50	51.50	36.50	54.00	4.85
26.51-32.5	38.50	53.50	38.50	56.50	5.61
32.51-38.5	44.50	62.50	44.50	66.00	5.60
38.51-49.5	51.00	71.00	51.00	75.00	5.63
49.51-59.5	56.50	79.00	56.50	83.00	5.06
59.51 +	73.00	100.00	73.00	105.00	5.00

**Short Visit Dues**

No increase for 2015

**Waterskiing Vessels/PWC**

No increase for 2015

It was AGREED to adopt these charges for 2015.

43

*Wallasea Wild Coast Project Progress Report*

The Harbour Master reported that progress had been reasonably good for the last 3-4 months. The figures for August were not quite as good but taking into account the three day breakdown in that period the figures were not far adrift for that period.

Members then went on to discuss the long term prognosis of the Project. The Harbour Master reported that the total amount of material from Crossrail was going to be in the region of around 2.85m tonne rather than the initial figure of 4m tonne which had been expected.

At the moment 5 ships are running and it is anticipated that by Christmas there will only be 3 ships running. During early January/February 2015 there will be no shipping movements and only 2~3 ships during February/March. It is expected that the Project will be finalized in May/June 2015.

Members went on to discuss the potential effects in the event of a shortfall of material. The Chairman said RSPB were under pressure to see the project through and in the event that a claim arose from the works undertaken there was an agreement that a sum of money was available in the event of any remediation works being required.

The Chairman went on to say that a recent meeting had been held at Wallasea at which he and the Harbour Master had attended to discuss with the RSPB the possibility of material from the Thames Tideway Tunnel. He said the only other option was material from Sizewell but there was no guarantee that either would be discharged at Wallasea.

NOTED

44 *Planning Application for Private Mooring Pontoon, Tideways, Creeksea*

The plans were displayed on the noticeboard

The Chief Executive reported that a planning application has been submitted to Maldon District Council by the owners of Tideways to install a long floating pontoon out into the river. He said that the Authority had received a Works Licence application last year for a similar pontoon, which had been rejected. The Chief Executive went on to say that he had written to Maldon Council setting out the Authority's objection to the proposal and he had also contacted the Joint Clubs Committee inviting them to comment.

He went on to say that he had not heard if the application had been successful.

It was AGREED to wait further development.

45 *Hayes Farm Water Ski Area*

The Chief Executive acknowledged the work carried out by Mr Lewis with regard to the Hayes Farm Boat Club. The Chief Executive went on to say that the water ski area at Hayes Farm had been established for the benefit of the Hayes Farm site tenants. Over the years skiing numbers have dwindled and it is understood that there are currently no water skiers and it is the Club's wish to see the removal of water skiing in that part of the river.

The Chief Executive said that he thought it was a good idea but the Authority must be careful to follow the correct procedure if it was decided to change the current situation. He pointed out that the CHA Byelaws state there shall be no water skiing except in such places where the Authority give consent where it should take place. In order to consent to this the Byelaws would not need to be changed but before making a decision it must be clear what is required. The Chief Executive said he would write to Hayes Farm Boat Club to see if there were any objections. He said the Authority would also need to consult with the Royal Yachting Association and the Heads of River, together with any other interested parties concerning water skiing.

Mr Lewis went on to report that there had been three near misses this year with regard to speeding in the area of Hayes Farm. The Chief Executive said that this was a separate issue concerning the speed limit in that part of the river and whilst people are under the assumption there is a speed limit up there that was not the case in that part of the river. Given the new power to give Directions the Authority would then be able to use its power to impose a speed limit at Hayes Farm and up to Battlesbridge.

He went on to say that this issue should be addressed and he was in touch with the Ports Division with regard to moving forward so that the Authority had the power to make Directions.

46 Any Other Business:

46.1 *Port Marine Safety Code*

Mr Robarts said he would be happy to give a full presentation to the Members with regard to the Port Marine Safety Code. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Members were familiar with the Code itself but were keen to know the intended timescales and completion of each stage together with the audit process.

Mr Robarts said he was open to any questions and agreed to email the members to keep them updated of the process. He also said he would email the Department of Transport link to each of the members.

NOTED

46.2 *Meeting Dates 2015*

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.15p.m.