

NEWLYN PIER AND HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD HELD AT 5.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2014 IN THE HARBOUR BOARD ROOM, NEWLYN HARBOUR.

In attendance: Father Keith Owen – Chairman Community Leader (KO)
 Joe Clive – Fish Merchants’ Sector (JC)
 Tom McClure – Inshore Fisheries Sector (10m+) (TMcC)
 Shane Liddicoat – Cornwall Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority (SC) Substitute member for Simon Cadman
 Cllr John Moreland – Penzance Town Council (JM) - arrived at 17.25
 Laurence Hartwell – Community (LH)
 Paul Trebilcock – Catching Sector (PT)

Also in attendance: Rob Parsons, Harbour Master (RP)
 Elaine Baker Commission Administrator (EB)

AB.11	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies for absence were received from Simon Cadman and Sam Winters.	
AB.12	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> None received.	
AB.13	<u>Minutes</u> RESOLVED: That the minutes, as amended below, of the meeting of the Advisory Board held on 8 October 2014 be approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Min No. 09 (Work Programme), third paragraph, 7 th line delete the words “for Penzance and Newlyn” and insert “for the whole of Cornwall”.	EB
AB.14	<u>Matter Arising</u> There were no matters arising from the minutes.	EB
AB.15	<u>Strategic Matters</u> RP advised the Advisory Board (AB) that his main focus in the coming months would be harbour core business, ensuring that the main business was efficient and effective. This work would include establishing parity between rents and charges and he confirmed that a review of charges was currently underway and that it was hoped that a new charging regime would be in place by April 2015. The AB and the Newlyn Fisherman’s Forum (NFF) would be consulted on the proposed new	

<p>AB.15 cont.</p>	<p>charges.</p> <p>RP also advised that work had commenced on the removal of the Children’s Friend from the harbour on health and safety grounds and that this would be followed by the removal of the vessel Wayfarer. The costs of removing the Wayfarer were being covered by NPHC’s insurer’s at a cost £75,000.</p> <p>The AB was also advised that work on the electrical upgrade was continuing and that the installation of boxes on the pontoons had been completed. Work had started on the Mary Williams Pier with completion of the North Pier in January 2015.</p> <p>Future projects included the refurbishment of the Harbour Office to comply with employment legislation, the finance for which was the subject of an EFF grant funding application.</p> <p>RP also commented on the latest situation regarding funding applications to the EMF fund. The start date had been delayed until April 2015 but in view of the General Election in May 2015 it was likely that this date would be delayed again until mid-2015. In the meantime, RP explained that it was important for the port to remain proactive and to complete the necessary studies, and have a robust business strategy in place in advance of the new funding stream. Projects that the Board would be looking at included engineering workshops and the fish market.</p> <p>RP referred to NPHC’s Vision Statement which was a “postcard” from the future and set out the harbour’s aspirations from which strategies and priorities would be formulated. In the coming months, together with the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Board would be working on the development of its business strategy which would assist in the submission of future European funding applications via the Marine Management Organisation. Eligibility criteria included projects related to harbour infrastructure, safety and the fishing fleet.</p> <p>RP apologised for the delay in presenting the accounts for 2011 / 12 and 2012 / 13. Although the accounts had been audited and signed off by himself and the Vice-Chairman they had not been seen by the Chairman. RP confirmed that they would be brought to the next meeting, together with the accounts for 2013 / 14.</p> <p>JC commented on the future viability of the port in view of the proposed reduction in fishing quotas and the lack of confidence that the local fishing industry had in the Fishing Minister. RP commented that at a recent British Ports Authority meeting he had raised similar concerns regarding fish discards with George Eustice MP whose response had been “<i>best way to deal... see what happens</i>” which was not encouraging. JC commented that he had put his concerns in writing to the Minister but to date he had received no reply.</p>	<p>RP</p>
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<p>AB.15 cont.</p>	<p>PT endorsed the comments and stated that the Minister did not appear to have an answer to issues regarding impact on quota, boats or the local community. However, PT explained that the outcome for Newlyn might be better than for other member states, as Newlyn also landed non-quota stocks. It was important that there was a strategy in place that related to what boats were doing, and that the pressure must be kept on the Minister to achieve this end. The announcement on quotas was expected on 17 December 2015.</p> <p>RP advised that regulations on fish traceability were due to come into force on 1 January 2015 and that discussions were ongoing with W Stevenson & Sons Ltd (WS&S) on this issue: Seafish were also carrying out inspections. PT referred to the relationship between the fish market and the Cornish Fish Producer’s Organisation (CFPO) and commented that there was more work to be done on this in the New Year, however he welcomed the engagement. RP explained that NPHC was responsible for compliance but that WS&S would be implementing the legislation. However, he was confident that the new legislation would not pose any significant issues as invoices already contained details of the boat on which the fish was landed and where it was caught.</p> <p>In summing up RP, commented that the development of the business strategy was key to the future success of the harbour and he suggested that one of the AB’s roles would be to scrutinise that process. PT asked if a draft report would be produced for consultation in advance of the formulation of the final strategy document. RP explained that he was currently collating a report on the current position which would make recommendations to the Board on future direction.</p> <p>PT asked if there would be user consultation on the charges review. RP confirmed that he would consult with as many harbour users as possible, including the AB and NFF as part of the review as the Department for Transport had made it clear that stakeholder consultation was an important element in the process. PT said that it was important that harbour users paid for the services they used and that the final report included narrative justifications alongside recommendations. RP acknowledged that meaningful consultation and transparency of decision-making had been lacking in the past and that these needed to be addressed as the business moved forward.</p> <p>TMcC referred to the installation of the new electrical boxes which he felt would make a positive difference to harbour users inasmuch as users would now be charged for actual usage. RP commented that the Board was not able to make a profit but could make a small administration fee to cover running and maintenance costs.</p> <p>LH asked if NPHC made a loss from boats that only landed at the port. RP explained that of primary importance was ensuring that harbour users got the service(s) they required and that he would be addressing this aspect of the port operation in the short term.</p>	
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<p>AB.15 cont.</p>	<p>TMcC declared a personal interest in the following matter as shareholder in a marine engineering business.</p> <p>JM gave an update on the progress of discussions on the development of marine engineering workshops and circulated a copy of a proposal for taking the matter forward. JM was reminded that the AB was not the appropriate forum at which to raise this issue and that a formal invitation to participate in the discussions should be sent from the Town Council to the Chairman of the Board.</p>	
<p>AB.16</p>	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
	<p>The meeting closed at 5.50 p.m.</p>	
	<p>Date:</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Chairman</p>