

NEWLYN PIER AND HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS HELD AT 9.00 A.M. WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2011 AT THE NEWLYN CENTRE

In attendance: Gilbert McCabe (Chairman) (GMcC) – Left the meeting at 10.10 a.m.
 Kevin Bennetts (KB)
 Mike Collier MBE (MC)
 Glenn Caplin (GC)
 Andrew Munson (AM)
 David Stevens (DS)
 Elizabeth Stevenson (ES)
 Ray Tovey (RT) – Left the meeting at 9.30 a.m.

Also in attendance Elaine Baker, Commission Administrator (EB)

	<u>PART A PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
	<p>Ruth Simpson expressed concern that the public part of the agenda was becoming shorter which reduced public participation in the meetings, and she hoped that the situation would be improved for future meetings. The Chairman noted the comments.</p> <p>KB referred to recent events and the resulting controversy and ill feeling which had been generated between the local community and NPHC. He commented that there was a considerable amount of positive work which was being undertaken on the harbour which he believed would bring positive benefits to Newlyn.</p> <p>Ruth Simpson commented that if the public was provided with more information they would have a better understanding of what was happening at the harbour.</p> <p>Bernard Evans asked for information on the progress in respect of the proposed new fish market. The Chairman gave a full explanation of reasons why the Board had taken the decision not to proceed with the proposed new fish market in the short term. The Chairman confirmed that the original proposal would not be implemented but that Board may consider new proposals for the fish market in the longer term.</p> <p>Helen Burnham commented that the negative feelings had arisen because the public had been left confused as to the reasons for the recent dismissal of two Commissioners. The Chairman commented that Commissioners had been appointed not to represent any particular interest but because of their individual skills. However, it had become clear that two former Commissioners had prejudiced views about another Commissioner which had hindered the progress of the Board. The Chairman stated that this view had been supported by the public comments made by Fiona Thomas-Lambourn at the Board meeting on 5</p>	

	<p>October 2011 in respect of Elizabeth Stevenson, and explained that if Mrs Thomas-Lambourn attended a future Board meeting, he would formally request that she make a public apology to Elizabeth Stevenson as this level of prejudice was not acceptable.</p> <p>RT said that he understood the concerns raised but the confidential nature of the discussions relating to the dismissal of the Commissioners meant that the public was not aware of the whole debate which had led to the Board's decision. He also referred to the BBC programme "Inside Out South West" which had featured the recent events, and which he felt had presented a biased view of events and had done more to damage the public image of Newlyn than the Commission.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that it was the intention of the Board to hold a further public meeting in February 2012 when the details of the Board's new Investment Plan would be presented.</p> <p>Elizabeth Stevenson stated that the organisation which represented the catching sector had been horrified at the content of the programme and that the negativity it had portrayed within the catching sector was totally inaccurate. Currently, there was more optimism in the fishing industry than there had been in many years, due in part to the improvement in fish quotas and stocks. In fact, some boats were reporting the best calendar year for some years, with some boat owners considering the purchase of new vessels and looking to invest in the future. ES felt that the programme had done a great deal of damage to the catching sector with its disingenuous disinformation.</p> <p>Helen Burnham stated that she appreciated the hard work carried out by the Commission.</p>	
	<p><u>PART B – MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS</u></p> <p>It was <u>AGREED</u> that consideration of the items in respect of the new logo and non-confidential information contained in the finance report be brought into the public part of the meeting.</p>	
<p>NPHC 56</p>	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>None received.</p>	
<p>NPHC 57</p>	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>KB declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda in connection with the harbour as the owner of a boat using the harbour and a businessman on the harbour.</p> <p>DS declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda in connection with the harbour as the owner of a boat using the harbour and a businessman on the harbour.</p>	

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	ES declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda which referred to W Stevenson & Sons in connection with the harbour. ES also declared a prejudicial interest in respect of the Harbour Master's confidential report as it related to W Stevenson & Son and agreed to withdraw from the meeting for consideration of the item.	AM
NPHC 58	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> : That the public Part 1 minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2011, including the summary of matters considered in Part 2 be approved, and signed by the Vice-Chairman.</p>	EB
NPHC 59	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
NPHC 60	<p><u>Appointment of New Commissioners</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported that fourteen applications had been received and that six candidates had been shortlisted for interview.</p> <p>The Interview Panel had unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board the appointment of three Commissioners which would be considered in the confidential part of the meeting. The new appointments, if confirmed, would meet the requirements of the Harbour Revision Order in respect of the Board's composition.</p>	
NPHC 61	<p><u>Executive Report</u></p> <p>The Harbour Master gave his report on Executive Matters since the last meeting. (Copy appended to the signed minutes).</p> <p>In respect of the fly tipping of fridges on harbour property, AM reported that there were currently 16 fridges requiring disposal at a cost of £30 per fridge. NPHC had an agreement with the former Penwith District Council regarding assistance with the disposal of such items and RT had agreed to raise the issue with Cornwall Council.</p>	RT / AM
NPHC 62	<p><u>Finance Report</u></p> <p>The Chairman reported on the current financial position. In 2008/09 NPHC had made a loss of £206,000, a surplus of £46,000 in 2009/10 and it was anticipated that the surplus would be higher in 2010/11. Income from fish landings had increased, and £170,000 had been spent on maintenance improvements to the harbour. Trading conditions were good, and the collection of dues not insignificant.</p> <p>NPHC had appointed Miller Commercial as its Commercial Property Management Agents and were currently in the process of collecting rents.</p>	

<p>NPHC 62 cont.</p>	<p>The Chairman also reported that NPHC was in the process of changing from the payment of dues in arrears to payment in advance. However, this was a significant change and some flexibility in completing the changeover would be required.</p> <p>Although NPHC currently had no reserves it would be making grant applications, with potential contributions made from within its own current trading surplus.</p>	
<p>NPHC 63</p>	<p><u>Logo</u></p> <p>EB circulated a revised logo which reflected the changes suggested at the last meeting, and examples of proposed letterhead layouts.</p> <p>The Chairman reported that he had received confirmation from the St Aubyn Estate and National Trust to the use of St Michael's Mount in the new logo.</p> <p>It was likely that the new logo would be introduced in the New Year following consultation with newly appointed Commissioners.</p>	<p>EB</p>
<p>NPHC 64</p>	<p><u>Exclusion of the Press and Public</u></p> <p>The meeting <u>RESOLVED</u> to exclude the press and public at this point in the proceedings as matters of a confidential and personal nature were to be discussed.</p>	

SUMMARY OF MATTERS CONSIDERED IN THE CONFIDENTIAL PART OF THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE NEWLYN PIER & HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2011

1. Minutes (Part 2) of the Meeting held on 10 November 2011

The minutes, as amended, were approved by the Board.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chairman's Report

The Board received an update on progress in formulating a future investment plan and staffing matters.

4. Finance Report

The Board received a confidential update on the current financial position of NPHC.

5. Executive Report

The Board received the regular executive report on confidential matters relating to the harbour operation.

6. Any Other Business

The Board discussed proposals in respect of Penzance harbour and the recent BBC programme "Inside Out South West"

7. Date of Next Meeting

To be held at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 4 January 2012 in the Newlyn Centre.

The meeting closed at 10.25 a.m.

Chairman

4 January 2012