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Newlyn Pier and Harbour Commissioners

Meeting of the Advisory Board held at 1.30 p.m. on Thursday 20 May 2021 at St Peter's Church, Newlyn

In attendance: Keith Owen (Chairman)
Nick Howell (NH)
Simon Cadman (SC)
Paul Durkin
Laurence Hartwell (LH)
Tom McClure (TM)
Jason Ward

Also in attendance: Andrew Watts

	<p><u>Questions from Members of the Public</u></p> <p>This was a closed meeting to comply with COVID-19 safety restrictions. No questions from the public had been submitted in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The next scheduled meeting is before 21 June, the date for the removal of restrictions under the government roadmap. Rather than delaying the meeting, the AB agreed to hold this meeting under the current restrictions and ask (via the website) for any questions to be submitted by e-mail.</p>	LH
1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from John Lambourn.</p> <p>Daisy May has resigned from the AB.</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>TM declared a personal interest in any items on the agenda in connection with the harbour as a fisherman and harbour user.</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate representation.</p>	

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4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>KO was unsure whether the letter in support of the celebrations of the Ordnance Datum anniversary had been sent, and will re-send it to the NPHC with an approved minute of the meeting.</p> <p>The Harbour Master has written to the AB to suggest opening the South Pier to the public permanently in tandem with closing the working parts of the harbour because of safety concerns. The AB's initial reaction was that this approach would be sensible - the South Pier is safer and less heavily used by the industry - but would consult with stakeholders and the public.</p> <p>The AB also asked that any security measures took into account future plans. (The AB's concept for redevelopment included observation platforms linking the South Pier to the Old Quay.) There was no point erecting security barriers which would have to be removed or remodelled after the working parts were moved to Sandy Cove. The AB also felt that improved signage at the entrance to the North Pier - directing the general public to parts where they did have access - could be just as effective as physical barriers.</p>	
5	<p><u>Appointments to the Advisory Board/Harbour Commission</u></p> <p>The AB heard that, following the local elections and the swearing in of a new mayor and council, JL would no longer be able to represent the town council on the AB. The AB was very grateful for JL's input to this date, and asked that the NPHC re-appoint him to the board with a wider brief so that the AB could continue to benefit from his experience and connections.</p> <p>The AB understood that no one had been put forward to represent Cornwall Council as yet, but it was suggested that if Thalia Marrington (who is Penzance Town Councillor as well as on Cornwall Council for Mousehole, Newlyn and St Buryan) were appointed, there would be no need for an additional Cornwall Council representative.</p> <p>The NPHC is open to the idea of individual Commissioners liaising with individual members of the AB, along the lines of LH and Abbie Smith working together on publicity, but insists that no Commissioners would have executive authority and everything had to be referred back to a full meeting of the Commissioners. This would however depend on the new appointments, which have not yet been finalised.</p>	

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6	<p><u>PR</u></p> <p>LH outlined the updates he had made to the website. He was concerned that the Commissioners were not engaging sufficiently with the public: since April 2020, there have been three posts on facebook and two posts on twitter. The AB urged the NPHC to make more content available.</p> <p>LH reported that, since the concepts for Sandy Cove had been published on the website, he had only received one negative response, from someone complaining that the view from their house would be adversely affected. The AB was of the opinion that no one had a right to a view.</p> <p>The AB wanted to arrange a public presentation of the AB's concepts, and the NPHC's plans, in order to hear more responses. The Spring Tide at the end of June would be a convenient time, and the display should be as near to the harbour as possible, to ensure as much take up from the industry as possible.</p> <p>Local councillors and the MP should also be invited.</p> <p>It would be advisable to hold a round-table meeting with the NPHC before the exhibition to ensure co-ordination (if not agreement on details).</p> <p>It was agreed that the concept plans should be shown at A0 size (and the NPHC be asked to cover the cost of printing) along with a list of operational issues brought up in consultation cross-referenced to the AB's proposed solution.</p> <p>Andrew George, whose organisation CCLT is proposing 29 new homes in Newlyn, has asked if they could present their plans within the same exhibition. There was no objection from the AB,</p>	
7	<p><u>Sandy Cove concept</u></p> <p>The AB discussed the possibility of advancing the Sandy Cove concept in the context of the recent local government elections. Now that Cornwall Council is controlled by one party, liaison may be easier; and the closure of the dry dock in Penzance makes the case for a decent engineering facility in Newlyn stronger. The business agenda is now more persuasive than it might have been. Moreover, the local councillors who are not Conservative have already expressed interest in the concepts.</p> <p>In any event, officials were no longer in purdah and so the round-table meeting that Edward Iliffe (of MDL) had been seeking could now go ahead.</p>	

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	<p>The new deputy mayor of Penzance, Will Elliott, was reportedly keen to advance the plans with the Penzance town council, and planned to discuss the access road at the meeting in July.</p> <p>NH agreed to make an informal approach to Cllr Linda Taylor, the new leader of Cornwall Council.</p> <p>There has still been no word from the MP, Derek Thomas.</p> <p>The political backing is necessary because the project is impossible without major government investment. Moreover, a joint venture of this size would have to be project managed by Cornwall Council rather than by the NPHC on its own.</p> <p>The AB agreed that the NPHC needed to be encouraged to be more proactive in making the case for the expansion, rather than waiting to see what funds were available. It was not the AB's role to advocate for it: now that they had fed the stakeholders' views into the concepts, it was up to the NPHC to move it forward.</p> <p>Some members of the NPHC were, it was reported, concerned that the concept plans should be the intellectual property of the NPHC. The AB were happy for the NPHC to use their product in any way they wanted - this was what the AB is for - and did not expect to retain control after it had been handed over.</p> <p>Conversely, the NPHC was reportedly concerned that they would be blamed if expectations were raised and then dashed. The AB wanted to pass assurances to the NPHC that there was no question of a blame game and wanted to make it clear to the NPHC that we were all on the same side.</p>	NH
9	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 3:08 pm.</p>	
	<p>The next meeting will be on 17 June 2021 at 1:30 pm</p>	