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Newlyn Pier and Harbour Commissioners

Meeting of the Advisory Board held at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 20 August 2021 in the Conference Room, Newlyn Harbour offices

In attendance: Nick Howell (Acting Chairman) (NH)
Simon Cadman
Paul Durkin
Nigel Davis (ND)
Larry Hartwell (LH)
Thalia Marrington
Keith Owen (KO)

Also in attendance: Rob Parsons (RP)

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.</p> <p>No questions from the public had been submitted in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that all future meetings should be open to members of the public, and LH was asked to upload information to the website.</p>	LH
1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Tom McClure and Simon Cadman.</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>No members of the AB declared any interest in any of the matters discussed at the meeting.</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes</u></p> <p>The draft minutes of the previous meeting were presented and it was noted that, in addition to those named, Paul Durkin had also sent his apologies.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that, once this addition was made, 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>There were no matters arising which were not already items for discussion on the Agenda.</p>	
5	<p><u>Harbour Commission</u></p> <p>RP gave a confidential update on negotiations with Ocean Fish regarding the auction.</p>	
6	<p><u>Mounts Bay Harbour Strategy</u></p> <p>NH went through the Harbour Strategy presentation for the benefit of new members of the AB.</p> <p>The need for joined-up thinking, which has been lacking in the past, was emphasised, with previous consultants being limited by the remit they had been given. RP said this would be avoided in the future.</p> <p>The bigger picture was linking coastal defence, deep water fishing, marine engineering jobs and the need for housing to retain the workforce. Making Newlyn a destination as a result of regeneration was another side-effect.</p> <p>The opportunities for Newlyn were better than they had ever been: with fuel costs increasing, with bigger deeper boats (especially for marine renewables), Newlyn was ideally sited to be a hub. (Hayle was on the wrong side of the peninsula for continued growth.)</p> <p>NPHC's approach was that it agreed with the strategy, and wanted to deliver, but it would be dependent on the availability of funding. RP believed that there was demand for the new facilities, but the Commissioners would need to see the business case.</p> <p>More widely, it was noted that a consensus was growing that the harbours in the Mount's Bay area should work together on redevelopment. (The only objections seen so far were from retirees.)</p> <p>It was noted that an access road from Trereife was a popular proposal, even without the Sandy Cove development.</p> <p>The next steps were to liaise with the leader of Cornwall Council on the opportunities offered for long-term permanent jobs, and Nigel Blackler, the Director of Infrastructure. Up until now, delivery mechanisms had failed, and it may be necessary to involve the Infrastructure and Projects Authority for a project of this size and complexity.</p>	

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	<p>Derek Thomas MP was taking over the lead on the policy, but the AB hoped that it was recognised that Newlyn's contribution was an excellent pilot for innovative development. Rather than a consultation to endorse a plan, it had been a research project into various sectors which had grown organically, involving public consultation from the beginning.</p>	
7	<p><u>New member interview process</u></p> <p>RP reported that he had not been able to carry out the interviews for new members of the AB, but that everyone who applied would be interviewed. The interviews would take up a whole day, probably towards the end of September, with a view to having AB members in place before the October meeting.</p>	
8	<p><u>Town Council</u></p> <p>ND gave an update on the public toilets on the North Pier. The Town Council was having an urgent session at the beginning of September with a view to taking them over. The cleaning company currently under contract for the toilets in Penzance will, if approved, take over cleaning duties.</p> <p>It was agreed that water fountains would also be desirable in Newlyn, but that should be left to NPHC when they looked at the final plans.</p> <p>There followed a discussion on the land on the Coombe previously earmarked for a car park. The land had been offered to the Town Council as part of its devolution plan, and they had wanted to turn it into allotments. A bridge suitable for traffic would have cost £10k/metre ten years ago. However, a car park could bring in £200k a year, so this was affordable.</p> <p>The possibility of forming a Community Interest Company to take over and manage the land as a car park, under the government's "right to regenerate", was discussed. The AB's attention was drawn to the example of the skate park, where the local community felt it had "ownership" of the facility. This could be a "green" car park, and would fit into the Neighbourhood Plan for Penzance.</p> <p>In any event, the need for more parking had been raised in the AB's previous consultations, within industries based at the harbour and in the wider local community, and so it was agreed that the AB should pursue any options available.</p>	

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	TM agreed to find out what was happening with the land, and to investigate what support there was from town councillors for parking facilities.	TM
9	<u>Any Other Business</u> There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 3:30 pm.	
	The next meeting will be on 20 October 2021 at 2 pm	