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Newlyn Pier and Harbour Commissioners

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

In attendance: Nick Howell (Acting Chairman) (NH)
Richard Adams
Simon Cadman (SC)
Nick Downing (NDo)
Paul Durkin
Nigel Davis (NDa)
John Lambourn
Thalia Marrington (TM)
Tom McClure
Tony Pearce (TP)

Also in attendance: Andrew Watts

	<p><u>Introduction of New Members</u></p> <p>The new members introduced themselves to the AB, and outlined the experience and expertise they could bring to the board.</p> <p>The AB suggested that there could be more experience on the fishing side.</p> <p><u>Questions from Members of the Public</u></p> <p>There were no members of the public present, and no questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>The AB committed to holding the meetings at the same date and time every month so that members of the public would be able to attend.</p>	
1	<p><u>Apologies for Absence</u></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Fr Keith Owen and Laurence Hartwell.</p> <p>The AB sent their best wishes for a full recovery to Fr Keith Owen.</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>SC declared an interest in relation to the Cornwall Seafood Training (discussed at item 7).</p>	

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	<p>No members of the AB declared any other 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 “new members” should read “new member”, and “strategy” in paragraph 5 of item 6 should read “proposals”.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that, once these amendments were made, the minutes of the last meeting were a true and accurate representation.</p>	
4	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>NDa reported that Penzance Town Council were taking over the maintenance of the toilets on the North Pier, and the maintenance contract would start on 1 November. NDa also reported that the town council were in the early stages of discussing the installation of water fountains, and Newlyn would be included.</p> <p>There were no other matters arising which were not already items for discussion on the Agenda.</p>	
5	<p><u>Mount’s Bay Harbours Group</u></p> <p>NH reported back from the two meetings of the Mount’s Bay Harbour Group, chaired by Derek Thomas MP, as far as was possible under the Chatham House rule.</p> <p>While the meetings had been positive, with consensus that action was necessary after £4m had been spent over 12 years with no result, it was disappointing that Cornwall Council’s plans were for the period 2030 onwards.</p> <p>Louise Wood, from Cornwall Council, would revisit Newlyn’s section of the local neighborhood plan, funded by the Council. This should include Port Penlee, creating a partnership between the private and public sector, which had not been in the original site allocation, although the original plan could be adapted and she would be attending a meeting on site.</p> <p>The AB noted the Prime Minister’s conference speech which had drawn attention to private sector involvement in new projects, including infrastructure projects.</p>	

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	<p>The MP had sent a brief report for Michael Gove, the Minister for Levelling Up, who has previously worked with Philip Williams and Paul Illingworth, the Infrastructure and Projects Authority officials initially contacted by KO and NH.</p> <p>It was apparent that Cornwall Council and the other parties involved did not have time to look at new projects, and this was one reason for delay. MDL had assigned Christie Roger to the project, but no other party had anyone with a similar focus.</p> <p>The importance of the meetings was in breaking away from silo thinking: the most recent meeting included a representative from the breakwater project, which had not previously been discussed with Newlyn harbour, the most economically important harbour in Mount's Bay, or MDL, who could supply the stone.</p> <p>It was observed that, although Penzance Town Council received nearly £400k per year from Newlyn, Mousehole and Paul, Newlyn did not receive the same investment as the town centre in return. Newlyn did not have its own Town Deal, and only one representative on the fund - the harbour master, who was leaving - although TM was understood to be replacing him.</p> <p>It was suggested that the AB could support JL's campaign for a separate parish council (and hence separate Town Deal) in Cornwall Council's review of local government, or, at least, boost awareness of possibilities among specific sectors including retail and leisure.</p> <p>It was noted that the Harbour Revision Order did provide for the AB to have a wider remit than simply oversight of the harbour.</p>	
6	<p><u>Cornwall Council property</u></p> <p>The AB considered the need for more parking in Newlyn, given the growing potential, and the suggestion that the Council-owned land on the Coombe could be used. The AB learnt that the land was classed as contaminated, due to previous greenhouses on the site, and so could not be used for allotments as the town council had previously planned.</p> <p>TM reported that Cornwall Council was having to make cuts, and so the Council's decision-making was in a period of flux. Discussions about the future of Penzance, including Newlyn, were already taking place based on funding already announced.</p>	

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	<p>The AB considered the need to develop its own vehicle plan, given the importance of transportation to the harbour's business, but some members argued that this should be closely linked to Penzance's traffic strategy. The AB noted that problems had already arisen in Newlyn due to changes made in Penzance.</p> <p>The consultations around Phase 3 of Healthy Streets would be happening in 2022, and Newlyn's needs could and should be considered within this wider strategy. There could also be consultation about parking permits, to see if opinions had changed.</p> <p>It was suggested that TM could invite an officer from the Council's Highways department to meet the AB.</p> <p>The benefit of a Community Interest Company taking on the parking was discussed.</p> <p>Some members felt that the AB was being distracted from its purpose: while it could support projects, they should be led by other community organisations, such as the Newlyn Association. The counter-argument was that the plans for Newlyn Harbour depended on whether parking was available elsewhere. It was agreed that the AB, and TM, should act as a conduit for raising parking and other transport problems into local plans.</p> <p>NDo and TP agreed to provide feedback to TM after the meeting.</p> <p>NH agreed to ask the Harbour Commissioners to raise the issues of access and parking at the next meeting of the Mount's Bay Harbours Group and with the council.</p>	<p>NDo/ TP/TM</p> <p>NH</p>
7	<p><u>The Concepts for Newlyn Harbour and Sandy Cove</u></p> <p>NH went through the AB's work over the last two years, the concepts for Newlyn Harbour and Sandy Cove which resulted and how they have developed, for the benefit of new members of the AB.</p>	
8	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>The prospect of restarting the Newlyn Fish Festival was raised, and it was agreed to discuss at a future meeting.</p> <p>There was no other business, and the meeting closed at 4:09 pm.</p>	
	<p>The next meeting will be on 18 November 2021 at 2 pm</p>	