

**MINUTES OF THE POOLE HARBOUR BRIDGES OPERATING BOARD
HELD AT: BOROUGH OF POOLE OFFICES, ST JOHN'S HOUSE, SERPENTINE
ROAD, POOLE ON: FRIDAY 4th NOVEMBER 2011 AT 2.00PM**

Present:

Brian Murphy (BM) – Chair	-	Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC)
Jon Eads (JE)	-	MDL Cobbs Quay (MDL)
Mike Markey (MM)	-	Poole Harbour Association (PHA)
John Rice (JCR)	-	Borough of Poole (BoP)
Greg Buxton (GB)	-	Borough of Poole (Bridge Operator)

1. APOLOGIES

Lynda Bourne (LB)	-	Poole Harbour Association
Scott Oliphant (SO)	-	Dorset Police

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 9th September 2011 were approved with only 2no. minor typing amendments noted.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Licence for additional VHF radio channel is expected later this month and PHC and BOB will be informed by BoP which channel has been approved for use.

Action JCR

3.3 After careful consideration it was agreed that signage fixed to the bridges to provide guidance for mariners on the use of the IALA signal system was not required.

6. It was agreed that the proposal for a “ready reckoner” to assess tide, wind and basin capacity issues will not be pursued at his stage.

9.5 GB confirmed that the operating practise for Poole Bridge includes a minimum of 30s green time for mariners in both directions even if the operator cannot see any vessels waiting to pass.

11.3 Proposed road traffic trial regarding Sunseeker boat movements on West Quay Road was being reviewed as part of wider considerations with Sunseeker, Dorset Police and BoP.

4. TWIN SAILS – UPDATE REPORT

4.1 JCR reported progress with the construction of Twin Sails Bridge as follows:

4.2 Marine:

- Short term berths are being installed.
- Scour monitoring is ongoing.
- Water monitoring is ongoing – no concerns recorded.
- Navigation channel closures for welding and surfacing works have been agreed (See Item 9 below).

4.3 East Side:

- East abutment has been constructed except run on slab and cantilever section to abutment.
- Highway drainage installation is in progress.
- Installation and commissioning of HV transformer and LV panel have been completed.

4.4 West Side:

- Western Abutment has been constructed.
- Ash Barge Berth repairs are completed.
- Drainage installation is ongoing.

4.5 Steelwork:

- All spans have been erected and final welding is ongoing.
- Bridge deck of spans 1 and 2 has been concreted.
- Vehicle Restraint System (VRS) is being installed. Electrical connections for lighting are being installed.
- Commissioning of hydraulics is ongoing.

4.6 Looking Ahead for November:

- Spans 1 and 2 – install parapet and handrail, kerbing, lay surfacing. Deck – finish installation of VRS on West side. Start installation of pedestrian screen.
- Span 3 – Install passive interlocks, shock absorbers, steel mast sections and deck joint plates. Installation of Span 3 tip will be undertaken during a channel closure.
- Spans 4 and 5 – construct deck, drainage outlets, gullies, concrete deck, start installation of VRS, parapet and handrail.
- Temporary control room – permanent duct route installation.
- East Abutment – construct run on slab and cantilever section of abutment.
- East Embankment – finish highway drainage, install ducting and lay sub-base and kerbs.
- West Embankment – install ducts and gullies, lay sub-base and kerbs.

5. BRIDGE OPERATOR TRAINING UPDATE

5.1 GB confirmed that Bridge Operator training is on going. BM confirmed that the next group of Bridge Operators will be going to PHC offices for training on 9th November 2011.

6. BYELAWS UPDATE

6.1 BM confirmed that PHC proposed byelaws had now been advertised and that on objections had been received. The byelaws can now be signed by the DfT and it is expected that they will come into force in December 2011.

7. COMPLAINTS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE

7.1 No complaints received.

7.2 BM reported that feedback on customer service has all been positive and that communications between the Bridge Operators and Harbour Control were good.

7.3 JE reported that maintenance dredging for Cobbs Quay Marina would be carried out over a 4 weeks period commencing on 27th February 2012 and that they would be requesting additional lifts.

7.4 The Bridge Lift Request form will need to be updated before Twin Sails comes fully into operation in the New Year.

Action BM/ JCR

8. HEALTH & SAFETY INCLUDING MARITIME ACCIDENTS/ INCIDENTS

8.1 No issues or concerns reported.

9. PLANNED CLOSURES/ TIMETABLES/ SEQUENCING

9.1 The current practise of the bridge Operators of clearing the basin area first rather than allowing vessels with a following tide to pass first has generated some concerns from mariners. It was agreed that the following principles would be adopted with immediate effect:

- Low numbers of vessels (less than 20 in either direction) vessels with the following tide will normally be signalled through the bridge(s) first.
- Higher numbers of vessels when the capacity of the basin is more significant (20 or more 20 vessels in either direction) vessels in the basin will normally be signalled through the bridge(s) first.

Action JCR/ GB

9.2 BoP confirmed that it was the intention that the more experienced Bridge Operators will be on duty during the busier periods. However if for any reason this was not possible BM offered PHC support for the duty operator.

- 9.3 BOB request that the Bridge Operators maintain an experience log to record the hours spent operating the two bridge system. BM reported that this is common practise in the marine industry and can be helpful to verify experience if there is ever an investigation into an operational incident. JCR agreed.

Action JCR/ GB

- 9.4 BM reported that he had attended a meeting with Hocktief (UK), the Twin Sails construction contractor regarding planned closures of Back Water Channel to complete the bridge construction works. Some of the closures are covered by the previous advert however additional closures will require a further advert which will be issued by BoP during w/c 7th November 2011.

- 9.5 JCR confirmed that the schedules agreed by BOB in September have been approved by the Council and for clarity are attached to these minutes.

- 9.6 JCR confirmed that BoP will issue a leaflet to assist mariners with the two bridge system. The leaflet will take the same form as the one issued last year for the IALA signal system. JCR will circulate the draft leaflet to BOB Members for comment as soon as it is available.

Action JCR

- 9.7 The Board agreed that to maximise the efficient operation of the two bridge system the operators will normally signal, to one direction, "proceed with caution" (3 reds + yellow) as the bridge is being raised. Green signals will only be shown when the leaves are fully raised. This action will be controlled by the bridge operator and does not remove the boat operator's responsibility for the safety of his own vessel.

Action JCR

- 9.8 BM showed BOB the latest version of his PowerPoint presentation to explain the operation of the two bridge system. This was well received although a few minor amendments will be made before it is shown to a wider audience.

Action BM

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10.1 The lifting schedules which have now been approved by the Council, including the schedule for the remainder of the construction period, are to advertised by BoP.

Action JCR

10.2 PHC will issue a LNTM for the construction period schedule to support BoP advert.

Action BM

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.1 2nd December 2011 at 14:00 at PHC offices.

Attachments:

1. Lifting schedules approved by the Council on 1st November 2011.