



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PASSENGER BOAT OPERATORS HELD ON MONDAY
26TH APRIL 2010 AT 1030 HOURS IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE HARBOUR OFFICE
OF POOLE HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS**

PRESENT: Brian Murphy - HM, Poole Harbour Commissioners
Mr Jim Stewart CX, Poole Harbour Commissioners
Ian Bishop - Poole Harbour Commissioners
Matthew Greenslade - Greenslade Pleasure Boats
Fiona Greenslade - Greenslade Pleasure Boats
Mr David Hedgeman Brownsea Island Ferries

1. INTRODUCTION

Brian Murphy, Harbour Master thanked everyone present for attending the meeting.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Captain Brian Murphy was elected Chairman for the meeting.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Richard Lacey (PHC), Sally Porter (PHC) John Binder (PQBH) & Kevin Walters, Blue Line Cruises

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2009 were approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Brian Murphy confirmed that further to concerns raised regarding a number of leisure craft not using navigation lights as per the Colregs in the harbour a Notice to Mariners had been promulgated number 05/2010.

Brian Murphy advised that further to Joseph Lambert's request that it would be useful for vessels nearing North Hook to be made aware that a ferry or cargo vessel is approaching, he confirmed that Harbour Control are now aware of this and will advise passenger boats of shipping movements when calling at North Hook.

6. HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

Brian Murphy tabled a list of incidents from October 2009 to March 2010. He further confirmed that PHC were in the process of reviewing the PHC website which would incorporate the Harbour Masters' Monthly Marine Safety Report. He requested that any incident should be emailed to the Harbour Master for his further attention.

Brian Murphy advised that a Harbour Safety Meeting had taken place on the 12th April. He confirmed that Kevin Walters had attended on behalf of the Passenger Boat Operators. He further confirmed that other attendees normally include the Coastguard, Royal Marines and other user groups. He advised that this meeting is an a good forum for members to air their point of view, with an aim to minimise conflict between commercial and leisure users, therefore reducing the risk.

David Hedgeman reported on an incident that had occurred in August 2009 which had involved a vessel bringing an injured diver to Town Quay. He further reported that the incident had been logged and permission given by Harbour Control. DH reported that the incident had involved extensive repair to his vessel. DH advised that the incident could have potentially resulted in a fatal occurrence which could have been avoided had the vessel been guided to the Sandbanks jetty.

Brian Murphy advised that he would look into this and revert back to DH in writing.

ACTION BM

Brian Murphy reported that a Local Notice to Mariners (06/2010) had been issued on the 16th March 2010 reminding Harbour Users of speed limit Byelaw 2aa.

Brian Murphy confirmed that approval for the second bridge has now been signed off by the Department for Transport and a contractor has been selected by the Borough of Poole. He further confirmed that it was envisaged that work would commence within the next two months.

Brian Murphy advised that preliminary works have been ongoing with site clearance and translocation of reptiles completed. He further advised that the first phase of dredging had been completed with the second phase commencing in August.

Brian Murphy advised that one of the concerns was the safety of navigation between the two bridges. He further advised that he had asked the contractor for a risk assessment which had now been received. He advised that this had been a very detailed report. BM advised that temporary traffic lights would be installed. BM reported that IALA lights will also be fitted to the existing bridge.

Brian Murphy reported that the introduction of self certification on mooring servicing has been a positive step forward in ensuring that the standard of moorings in the harbour is improved.

Brian Murphy advised that there has been a worrying trend of vessels coming adrift from their moorings which ultimately seems to be as a result of faulty or improper top gear. He advised that block holders had been asked to inspect these regularly and replace as required.

Jim Stewart advised that with the loss of the 'Barfleur' and the loss of 25% of PHC revenue, regrettably in order to keep the Port profitable it had been necessary to put in place a redundancy programme. He further advised that forty members of staff had left the organisation either by compulsory or voluntary redundancy. JS advised that agreement had now been reached with the Unions and pay cuts had been necessary. He further reported that a new structure had been in place since the 1st April 2010. JS advised that there had been a reduction throughout the business within administration, stevedores and management.

Brian Murphy advised that his department had not gone untouched. He confirmed that the Deputy Harbour Master would be taking voluntary redundancy. He further confirmed that his team had been made as lean as possible to carry out conservancy functions. BM advised that there was now two teams of six which would be co-ordinated by a Duty Assistant Harbour Master. He further confirmed that his men were very positive going forward.

Jim Stewart advised that there was no intention of Brittany Ferries removing the 'Cotentin' and Condor would still operate the Poole to Cherbourg route. He further advised that marketing the Port was in place but this was a difficult time for everyone.

Brian Murphy advised that there were two ongoing byelaws, one regarding no fishing, swimming or diving between the bridges and the other to enforce correct use of new IALA lights for marine traffic.

Jim Stewart reported that an HRO had been promulgated to bring all legislation into one modern form. He further reported that this had gone through extensive consultation. JS advised that there had been one representation from the Royal Yachting Association regarding the Harbour Master's Powers of Direction.

7. CHARGES FOR 2010

Brian Murphy confirmed that after successful negotiation with Crown Estate the rate will remain unchanged for this year. He further confirmed that there will be a ten year agreement with annual RPI by Oct RPI figures, and the increase will be upwards only rounded to the nearest pound.

David Hedgeman asked if it would be possible for PHC to give the Passenger Boat Operators the revised charges for 2011 in May as literature for the following year would be printed in May/June 2010. Brian Murphy advised that he would give this some thought and revert to the Passenger Boat Operators in **ACTION BM** due course.

8. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Brian Murphy asked the members if there were any comments regarding waste management. The members confirmed that there were no complaints and they were happy with the waste management procedures.



9. LIFEBUOYS ALONG THE QUAY

Brian Murphy advised that he had negotiated with a Company to replace all life buoys along the quay. He further advised that the aim was to put a small board with the name of the sponsor underneath the life buoy. Brian Murphy advised that he had yet to finalise the arrangement which should be in place within the next few months.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Brian Murphy advised that there has been a reduction in environmental incidents. He further advised that two areas of Eelgrass adjacent to the North Channel have now been marked using yellow buoys. He confirmed that leaflets had been passed to yacht clubs and marinas.

Brian Murphy advised that with regard to the Sediment Management Plan PHC had secured a further three year licence. He advised that it was envisaged that 20,000 cubic metres of material would be disposed of each year. He confirmed that Steve Pearce, PHC Hydrographic Surveyor was carrying out a CEFAS sampling exercise in the boatyard/marinas.

Brian Murphy advised that the Marine & Coastal Access Bill had now been passed. He further advised that a coastal access right to roam will probably not apply around the Harbour perimeter and that the first pedestrian access point (Sandbanks Chain Ferry) will likely apply.

Brian Murphy advised that the IFCA (Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authorities) will replace SSFD (Southern Sea Fisheries District Committee) and hopefully will be better resourced.

Brian Murphy advised that the Aquatic Management Plan was available for viewing on www.pooleharbouraqmp.co.uk. He confirmed that the Poole Harbour Steering Group would be undertaking a very detailed survey of use of harbour craft in the harbour. He further advised that the methodology had not yet been completed.

Jim Stewart advised that Sally Porter Environmental Adviser would be taking voluntary redundancy. He further advised that it was not the intention to replace her and her role would be absorbed within the organisation. Brian Murphy advised that the first point of call would be Warren Pym, Moorings Manager.

Brian Murphy advised that he was trying to stop users phoning staff directly on their mobiles. He further advised that the first point of call would be Annie Willats or Helen Birch who would point them in the right direction to the relevant person that is required.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Matthew Greenslade raised his concern that the vessel 'Adriaan' owned by Okeford Oysters was not dumping material in the correct designation. Brian Murphy advised that he would look into this. **ACTION BM**

David Hedgman raised his concern that there was a build up of sand at the Sandbanks Jetty. He advised that he had spoken to the Harbour Engineer but had not had a reply. Brian Murphy advised that he would speak to Andy Ramsbottom. **ACTION BM**

Brian Murphy reported that with regard to cycling on the quay he had been advised by Poole Borough Council that this was not their land and was a PHC problem. BM further advised that although a cycle lane had been provided PHC were not able to enforce it. After discussion Brian Murphy advised that it would be the intention to install two signs either end of the quay. Brian Murphy further advised that he would arrange for a meeting with a member of staff and David Hedgeman to discuss further. **ACTION BM**

David Hedgeman raised his concern that that he had not been able to refuel his vessel as it was not possible to gain access to the conventional quays at that time. Brian Murphy advised that the conventional shipping had preferential treatment at the quays at all times. Brian Murphy advised that PHC need as much notice as possible and his vessels would be accommodated where possible. **ACTION BM**

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 14th October 2010 at 10.30 a.m.