

AT A MEETING of the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at Warsash Sailing Club, Warsash on
Friday 20 December 2024

Chairman:

* Councillor Pal Hayre

- * Councillor Graham Burgess
- * Councillor Mark Cooper
- * Councillor Rod Cooper
- * Councillor Barry Dunning
- * Councillor Rupert Kyrle
- Councillor Alexis McEvoy
- * Councillor Lance Quantrill
- * Councillor Pamela Bryant
- * Councillor Stephen Philpott

Co-opted members

Councillor Jonathan Williams, Winchester City Council
Captain Steven Masters, Associated British Ports
Councillor Vivian Achwal, Winchester City Council
* John Selby, Royal Yachting Association
Gordon Craigen, Association of River Hamble Yacht Clubs
Councillor Joanne Burton, Fareham Borough Council
Ben Lippiett, River Hamble Marina, and Boatyard Operators Association
Councillor Steve Holes, Eastleigh Borough Council

Also present with the agreement of the Chairman:

- * Councillor David Foot, Fareham Borough Council

132. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr McEvoy, Cllr Burton, Cllr Achwal, Cllr Williams, Cllr Holes, Ben Lippiett, Captain Steven Masters and Gordon Craigen.

133. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3, Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

Cllr Rod Cooper and Cllr Dunning declared they sit on The Southern IFCA Committee.

134. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

135. **DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations for the meeting.

136. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman expressed gratitude to Councillor Burgess and Gordon Craigen for their dedicated service to the Committee. A warm welcome was extended to Councillor Foot and Matthew Richardson, who will be formally joining the Committee in February 2025 as their replacements.

137. **MARINE DIRECTOR AND HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT AND CURRENT ISSUES (TO INCLUDE ROUTINE REVIEW OF VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN)**

The Committee received an update report from the Director of Universal Services (item 6 in the minute book), recording formally RHHA patrol operations and inform the Duty Holder of significant events and trends having a bearing on the Marine Safety Management System.

A supplementary report was also provided, detailing more recent incidents recorded since the publication of the papers.

RESOLVED

The River Hamble Management Committee recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board support the contents of this report.

138. **ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE**

The Committee received an update report from the Director of Universal Services (item 7 in the minute book).

The report was summarised, and Members learned that the approved maintenance works at Hamble Point Marina and Mercury Yacht Harbour are due to take place during December and January.

Members learned that since publication of the report, the River Hamble Harbour Authority has received an acknowledgement to their consultation response to the Southern Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority's (SIFCA) on its proposed Shore Gathering Byelaw.

RESOLVED

The River Hamble Management Committee noted and supported the contents of this report.

139. **REVIEW OF ASSET REPLACEMENT RESERVE POLICY**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Universal Services (item 8 in the minute book).

Members were informed that marine inflation rates can be in excess of retail price indices and that a broad assessment of these rates would be used to inform future Reserve holding levels. Councillors inquired about the significance of the year 2035 as the minimum holding forecast for the Reserve. Councillors were informed that the current minimum holding would fall at that time because of currently projected expenditure.

RESOLVED

The River Hamble Management Committee recommended that the River Hamble Harbour Board:

- a) Agrees that the minimum holding level of the Reserve, currently forecast to fall in 2035, is reviewed annually and formally each April, taking into account a best assessment of likely inflationary pressures, to ensure that the principal of an adequate reserve level is sustained. This statement acknowledges that the current £100,000 figure is broadly correct, when adjusted for inflation;
- b) Notes the general impact of compound inflation on the Reserve in a marine sector which may be higher than normative RPI figures;
- c) Agrees that reasonable planning assumptions are adopted for scale and concurrency of 'force majeure' disruptive challenges and that these should sit at a minimum of £22,000 (2024 rates), that figure being catered for within the existing minimum holding policy.

140. **REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES**

The Committee received a report from the Director of Universal Services (item 9 in the minute book), summarising a review of fees and charges applicable to the River Hamble. This review does not include Harbour Dues for privately owned leisure vessels, which have been reviewed separately and increased by 4%.

Members discussed the fees for Jet Ski launches in comparison to other locations and were informed that, despite the increase, our fees remain lower than the Solent norm. Members were also advised that while it is difficult to estimate the expected income from this increase, there has consistently been a high uptake of jet ski launches. The Committee continues to work with the jet ski community to ensure compliance with the River's rules.

RESOLVED

The River Hamble Harbour Management Committee recommends to the River Hamble Harbour Board approval of the fees and charges set out below and to advertise them on the River Hamble Harbour Authority's website.

141. RIVER HAMBLE 2024/25 FORECAST OUTTURN AND 2025/26 FORWARD BUDGET

The Committee received a report from the Director of Corporate Operations and the Director of Universal Services (item 10 in the minute book), presenting the 2024/25 outturn forecast as of the end of September 2024 and the proposed 2025/26 forward budget for scrutiny and comment.

Members were informed that the current forecast is slightly worse than expected but not concerning. The Revenue reserve ideally needs to increase, necessitating another rise in Harbour Dues next year. A 1% increase equates to approximately £5,000, so a significantly above inflation hike is not anticipated.

Members expressed concerns about the reserves decreasing year on year and were advised that, although this is not the first time the River Hamble Harbour Authority has faced this situation, they must manage oscillations. The Harbour Dues year does not align with the financial year, so changes may not be immediately reflected in the figures.

Members also discussed Crown Estate funding and learned that the current contract expires in April 2025, with a new two-year extension currently under negotiation.

RESOLVED

- The projected outturn for the 2024/25 financial year was noted.
- The proposed forward budget was supported by the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee and submitted to the River Hamble Harbour Board for approval.
- The requirement to use the Revenue Reserve (RR) to ensure the full annual transfer to the Asset Replacement Reserve (ARR) can be made in both the current and forward year was noted.
- The balances held within the reserves and the position on the reserve balances were noted.

142. FORWARD PLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee received a report from the Director of Universal Services (item 11 in the minute book), setting out the key issues which it is anticipated will appear on the River Hamble Harbour Management Committee and Harbour Board agendas in the forthcoming months.

RESOLVED

The River Hamble Harbour Management Committee noted the report.

Chairman,