

## **NORTH DEVON COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Ilfracombe Harbour Board held at the Ilfracombe Centre, Ilfracombe on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 2.30 p.m.

PRESENT                    Councillor Fowler (Chairman)

                                  Councillors Crabb and P. Yabsley

                                  Co-opted Members: Mr. Benguey and Mr. Down.

                                  Officers:

                                  Democratic Services Co-ordinator (JG) and Harbour Master.

                                  Also Present:

                                  Mr. Gear – Chairman Ilfracombe Harbour Forum.

### **1        MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 (previously circulated) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **2        DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were announced:

Councillor Fowler – Personal Interest as a boat owner generally.

### **3        HARBOUR BUSINESS PLAN**

The Board considered the Ilfracombe Harbour Business Plan 2011/14 (circulated previously and tabled).

RESOLVED that the Ilfracombe Harbour Business Plan 2011/14 be approved and adopted subject to the deletion of reference to the Cross Channel Ferry as detailed in paragraph 2.3 on page 5 of the Plan.

The Harbour Master agreed that the Strategic Development Plan needed reviewing and agreed to invite someone from the Accounts department to attend quarterly meetings of the Board.

Following concern expressed by Councillor P. Yabsley, the Board agreed that there was a need to generate activity at the southern side of the Harbour. It was suggested that a Workshop be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2011 at 6:00p.m. to be attended by all members of the Board, Chairman of the Ilfracombe Harbour Forum (BG), Economic Regeneration Officer (EV) and the Asset Manager. The Workshop would include a walk of the area covering the southern side of the Harbour and Members were requested to assemble at the Tourist Information Kiosk on Larkstone Lane and reconvene at the Thatched Inn at 7:30 p.m.

#### **4 ESTATES ISSUES**

The Harbour Master outlined an update report by the Asset Manager (tabled) in relation to the following: -

- (a) Gig Club
- (b) Yacht Club Lease

It was suggested that a representative of the Board should be in attendance at meetings concerning the renewal of the Yacht Club lease.

- (c) Aquarium Lease
- (d) Water Sports Centre
- (e) Quay Road Ladders

The Board requested that its concern regarding the safety of Harbour access ladders on Quay Road be expressed to the Estates Department and that the ownership be identified as a matter of urgency to enable repair responsibilities to be addressed.

- (f) Traffic Control System

The Board expressed its concern that the authority was failing to address its health and safety requirements in relation to the Traffic Control System on Marine Drive.

#### **5 FUTURE HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT**

The Chairman advised the Board of the proposed closure of Swansea Coast Guard Station.

The Board gave its support to the Chairman making enquiries in relation to the creation of a Northern Breakwater through the Governments Infrastructure Investment Programme.

Mr. Down suggested that consideration be given to consulting with private investors for potential land development projects.

The Chairman referred to an email from Councillor Wilkinson updating the Board on the outcome of a meeting of the Local Government Association Coastal Issues Group.

#### **6 HARBOUR FORUM**

Mr. Gear advised the Board that he had been re-elected Chairman of the Forum for a further two years and had also been appointed Lead Councillor for any Harbour related matters so would welcome being included on any mailing lists relating to the same.

He further advised that he been referring to the constitution which required a representative of the Board to attend meetings of the Forum and that joint meetings be held annually.

Finally, Mr. Gear expressed particular concern regarding speeding vehicles in and around the harbour/pier area. The Chairman advised that the matter had been raised with the Police Authority on a number of occasions.

## **7 CRUISE LINE VISITS**

The Harbour Master outlined a programme (tabled) in relation to the visit of MS Prinsendam on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2011. He further advised on the marketing strategy for Ilfracombe Tourism and re-branding of Destination SouthWest.

## **8 FISHERMANS LOCAL ACTION GROUP**

The Harbour Master advised that the next meeting of FLAG would be held on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 which would include an update on the FLAG Strategy and Business Plan and hopefully funding would be allocated in the Autumn for projects coming forward.

## **9 SEA ILFRACOMBE**

Councillor P. Yabsley advised that plans were coming together nicely for the festival and the programme was not that different from the previous year other than a triathlon event consisting of 150 participants.

He confirmed that copies of the programme would be circulated to Members of the Board with further details of events.

## **10 ILFRACOMBE FAIR**

The Harbour Master referred to the decision of the Executive held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2011 (tabled)

The Board expressed its deep regret at the decision and unanimously requested that its views be conveyed to the Executive as it strongly disagreed with the reason for the decision and was firmly of the opinion that there was a viable alternative.

RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board write to the Leader seeking an item on the next Executive agenda to review its decision in relation to the Fair.

## **11 Q1 PERFORMANCE DATA**

The Harbour Master informed the Board of all the Quarter 1 performance targets, in particular the shortfall in the visiting boat numbers. He tabled a chart reflecting the numbers since 2004.

### Chairman

The meeting ended at 4.35 p.m.

NOTE: these minutes will be confirmed as a correct record at the next meeting of the Ilfracombe Harbour Board.