

THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE CROUCH HARBOUR AUTHORITY MEETING

HELD ON

11TH JANUARY 2024

CHAIRMAN: K Wickham

PRESENT: R Brown, E Buckley, R Coyle, T Dann, S Hollington,
J James, S Munro, D Sloan, A Wise

APOLOGIES: S Olley

IN ATTENDANCE: Susan Harrison Harbour Master, M Robarts, D.P.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

PART I (GOLD)

(Matters of a non-confidential nature taken with the public and press present).

1 *Declaration of Business Interests*

This was covered in the AGM.

2 *Chairman's Announcements*

There were no matters arising, other than to report that the Chairman would follow on the meeting by asking Mr Brown to make a presentation to the members regarding the proposed export of scrap metal from Baltic Wharf.

3 *Scrap Metal Export – Baltic Wharf*

The documents pertaining to the export of scrap metal were circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Information: Mr Brown then went on to give a brief resume of the proposed activities from Baltic Wharf and said he was happy to answer any questions if anyone had any concerns.

The Port had traditionally imported timber and steel for many years, but the port had seen a decline in the number of timber ships in recent years and the importation of steel had largely compensated for that. With the downturn of the economic climate the port had been looking to continue its viability and sustainability and had been looking into the prospect of accumulating heavy metal steel for export. The port has been asked to provide an area which will be suitable for accumulating consignments of clean uncontaminated scrap metal.

He then went on to explain how the activity would work, what procedures were in place in the event of any accident or spillages. The operations are confined to the IMSBC Regulations. A noise emissions study has been commissioned which will measure the baseline noise at the site which will be compared with the new additional activity.

There is nothing written in their agreement regarding statutory noise limits, however, Mr Brown advised that processes were in hand in getting agreement with the authorities to future proof the activity and make sure it was properly regulated in that respect.

Mr Brown finished his presentation after having addressed any questions by clarifying that he had been in discussion with the Harbour Master and out of courtesy members were being briefed for information purposes only on the new activity.

The D.P. referred to a few matters that the Authority may wish give consideration to going forward from the PMSC perspective on the waterside operations. He said it would also be beneficial to hold a tabletop exercise with Baltic Wharf in line with the Oil Spill Response Pollution Plan. The Harbour Master pointed out that the Authority were due to complete their 3 Yearly Tier II Oil Spill Exercise in April of this year and it may be that they could have the exercise at Baltic Wharf.

Mr Brown welcomed such an exercise, having worked a lot more closely with the DoT on their port facilities security plans, together with the planning and development of the capabilities of their two port facilities.

Action: To approach the Authority's Tier II operators and get them to assess and organize what would be practical to do.

Actioned by: Susan Harrison

For the benefit of the new members, the Chairman went round the table and asked everyone to introduce themselves and to give a brief resume of their background.

4 **MINUTES OF AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON 7th SEPTEMBER 2023**

It was proposed by Mr Wise and seconded by Mr Coyle that Part 1 be approved as a correct record. All in favour. Agreed.

There were no matters arising.

5 **MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2023**

There were no matters arising.

6 *Annual Dredging License Application from Fambridge Yacht Haven to Dredge 6,000 cu.m – Current License Expires 30th January 2024. MMO License MLA/2016/00197 – 29th January 2027*

Discussion: To consider annual dredging licence application received from Fambridge Yacht Haven to dredge 6,000 cubic metres for the recharge and replenishment of saltmarsh owned by them.

Mr Hollington wished to have it registered that he was not entirely happy with the operation, some of it being of a personal nature living opposite the site, however there were ongoing negotiations for small changes.

Decision: Approved annual Dredging License to Fambridge Yacht Haven.

Action Items: Advisory Committee to be notified.

To be Actioned by:

All in Favour: Agreed

7 *To Review Appointment of the “Designated Person”*

Discussion: The D.P. said he was more than happy to continue in his role as D.P but should at any time the Authority decide to change the model and to bring in someone else he would provide a proper handover. He stressed that he was here to provide support to the Harbour Master and to also answer any questions from the Trustees.

Members agreed that the services provided by the D.P. were excellent and they could not ask for better.

Decision: It was proposed by Mr Munro and seconded by Mr James to retain the services of the D.P.

Action Items:

To be Actioned by:

All in Favour: Agreed

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.35p.m.