



DUCHY of CORNWALL

HARBOUR OFFICE, ST. MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY, TR21 0HU  
Telephone: (01720) 422768, fax {01720} 423980  
[www.stmarys-harbour.co.uk](http://www.stmarys-harbour.co.uk) E-mail: [hm@stmarys-harbour.co.uk](mailto:hm@stmarys-harbour.co.uk)  
*Harbour Master: Dale Clark*

**ST. MARY'S HARBOUR USERS GROUP**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

**18:00 SLIP INN**

Invitees	Attended
Jeremy Phillips (JP) – Pilots / SMBA	N
Steve Hicks (SH) – Pilots / SMBA	Y
Robert Francis (RF)– ISFA	Y
Richard Hand (RH)– Hauliers	N
Mike Knapman (MK)– Hauliers	Y
Keith Buchanon (KB) – Tenant / sailing	N
Bryher Boats (JS)	N
St. Agnes Boating (SA)	N
St. Martins Boating (TP)	N
Pete Hicks – ISSCo / RNLI (PH)	Y
Mervyn Bird – ISSCo (MB)	N
Tim Fortey – Independent Boating (TF)	Y
Clive Sibley – Tenant / Fuel (CS)	Y
Richard Mills – Sailing Centre (RM)	N

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Jeremy Phillips, John Peacock, Richard Hand, and James Stedeford.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were approved. Unanimously approved.

**MATTERS ARISING**

DC reminded all participants of the importance of reporting any incidents or problems around the harbour to the harbour staff.

**INCIDENT REPORTS**

DC informed all that there had been 4 incidents since the last meeting. A road traffic accident involving a company vehicle (off the quay), a uneventful grounding of the Pegasus (the vessel floated off immediately), a staff injury whilst installing the pontoon (no time off taken), and the grounding of the Gry Maritha on crow rock. There was minimal damage to the Gry Maritha and a navigational advisory panel (NAP) took place. The result of the NAP was that there would be no use of PEC's (Pilot exemption certificates) or pilotage through crow sound in the dark. The harbour authority is

awaiting a conclusive meeting with ISSCo. After looking through previous incident reports there are no patterns forming.

## **STORM DAMAGE**

DC gave a description of the damage caused by severe storms earlier in the year. He described how various local notice to mariners were distributed and asked if anyone present would like to be added to the distribution list. PH said yes. JP asked how long the end steps will remain closed for DC said they would be open by the end of next week. DC explained how surface in the outer berth has been replaced with a concrete top and that a new wave wall will be built. JP asks if the works are affecting loading of the SCY III DC says the passenger walkway for SCY III is temporary but is working well however non passenger access will be restricted for the foreseeable future. AS says the wave wall will take 2-3 months depending on weather conditions. PH says the sand at the eastern end of Porthmellon beach is heaping up to the top of the wall in this area. DC says we will investigate and take action if appropriate. JP mentions that he has seen matting poking out of the sand at Porthmellon beach. DC says this has been removed by the council. CS mentions areas of the quay in which the cobbles are more exposed through the pointing washing out. DC says that repairs are on the harbour job list and will be rectified in the next week or two. JP asks if there has been an inspection of off Island quays since the bad weather. DC explains that there have been inspections and that there has been no cause for concern. Some bits and pieces have been removed from the berth at St Agnes and is all clear now. CS asks whether the structure of the main quay is sound AS describes how survey work has taken place with a view to provide and injection grouting in the future.

## **HARBOUR PROJECTS**

### **Waste Project**

DC says how the project to remove waste from the refuse site is now complete having moved 3488t to date.

### **Main quay works**

AS describes the works at the end of the quay. He says the very northern end of the quay will be left as it is in anticipation of the extension being overlapped in to this area. This will cause access restrictions especially at gig weekend. The concrete surface is now complete and open with new temporary fencing separating this from the area where the new wave wall will be built. AS describes that construction of the new wave wall will commence next week and will be built in sections of 10mx2.5mx1.5m(height) so that people can still see over the top of it. Risk assessments and methods statements will be developed next week and the project is due to be completed within 2 to 3 months depending on weather. It is proposed that resurfacing to the rear of the building will take place at the same time.

AS says works to the main building will take approximately 1 year and we are hoping to secure a contractor at the beginning of April. The new restaurant will be fitted out by new tenant.

AS describes that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> time the tendering process has taken place for the extension of the main quay and that we hope to secure a contractor for this in May/June with a proposed start date of 01/08/14.

SH asks who is doing what insofar as works goes. AS says a contractor will build waiting room, freight office, ticket office, quay extension, levelling of cobbles and infill whilst the Duchy will doing wave wall, desalination plant, resurfacing and internal works to main building.

AS says there is also the possibility of anodes being put on the sheet piling and pointing of the seaward wall.

### **Porthloo**

AS says how the foundations of the slipway are in and KML are awaiting a delivery to continue works. The proposed finish date is the end of May depending on weather. Boats will be launching Thursday and Friday.

### **Airport Resurfacing**

DC describes how the first landing craft full of plant is due tomorrow (Wednesday). All landing craft trips will go into Rachabite where possible but some of the plant will need to go to Porthmellon. It is

believed that when all the plant has arrived a 2000gt vessel will bring aggregate to the Island where it will be shipped ashore by landing craft.

SH asks if we will clear a way for the landing craft. DC responds by saying we may drop a row of moorings in the summer but there is no requirement for this at this time.

### **OFF ISLAND QUAYS**

AS says the idea of filling in the bottom of St Agnes and Church quay steps has been investigated but due to regulations this is not possible. We may put a post in act as a fender whilst keeping pedestrian access to the landing. This work is unlikely to take place this year.

DC says harbour staff will be visiting off island quays over the coming weeks to repaint rails and floor guidelines.

AS says after the recent storms it has become apparent that we may need to protect the access to Church quay in the future. This will be considered in due course after a joint report by the Wildlife Trust, local council and the Duchy of Cornwall.

### **2014 CRUISE CALLS**

DC explains that there are 42 ships booked for the coming season which start on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We have liaised with the SCY III on the dates they may have to move. GT says that there are 18 ships booked for the 2015 season at this time. DC says that new low sulphur fuel regulations could give us a further boost in numbers from next year. DC explains that tenders from cruise ships will only be allowed to use Carn Near from this year. The Council will provide temporary licences for tendering operations.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

DC describes the changes to the harbour tariff for the coming financial year. Most costs remain the same.

DC says we will be fitting new water and electric bollards for which there will be a charge for water. DC says the flags will be put up soon and that the harbour office will provide whiteboards for SMBA to advertise their trips.

RF explains that he is now part of a new transport committee as part of 'Island Partnership' and that all present are welcome to feed into the committee as required. He describes that in 2002 the airport handled 145k pax and this number has dropped to 111k in 2012. He says that visitor surveys were undertaken last year and the results could have been better. He explains that customer service is key to the future of tourism within the islands. CS adds that mixing with customers in general is important and DC points out that there is no customer service representative from the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company on the quay at any time.

RF says that as a result of the recent storms a volunteer clean up operation has been organised to spruce up the appearance of the island in general. DC says harbour staff will be attending on 5/6<sup>th</sup> April.

CS asks when service trenches will be completed. AS responds saying within 4 weeks.

TF shows concerns of how the quay will look during building works and a general discussion about publicity boards, pictures and descriptions ensues. DC explains that the council will have a dedicated publicity officer for the project and that we will look to minimise any impact as much as possible.

PH asks if there will be any catering service on the quay now the 'Pilchard Pit' has closed. DC responds by saying we are looking to provide a solution with the previous suppliers.

With no other business the meeting was closed at 19:20.

Next meeting to be held end of summer season – HM to advise.